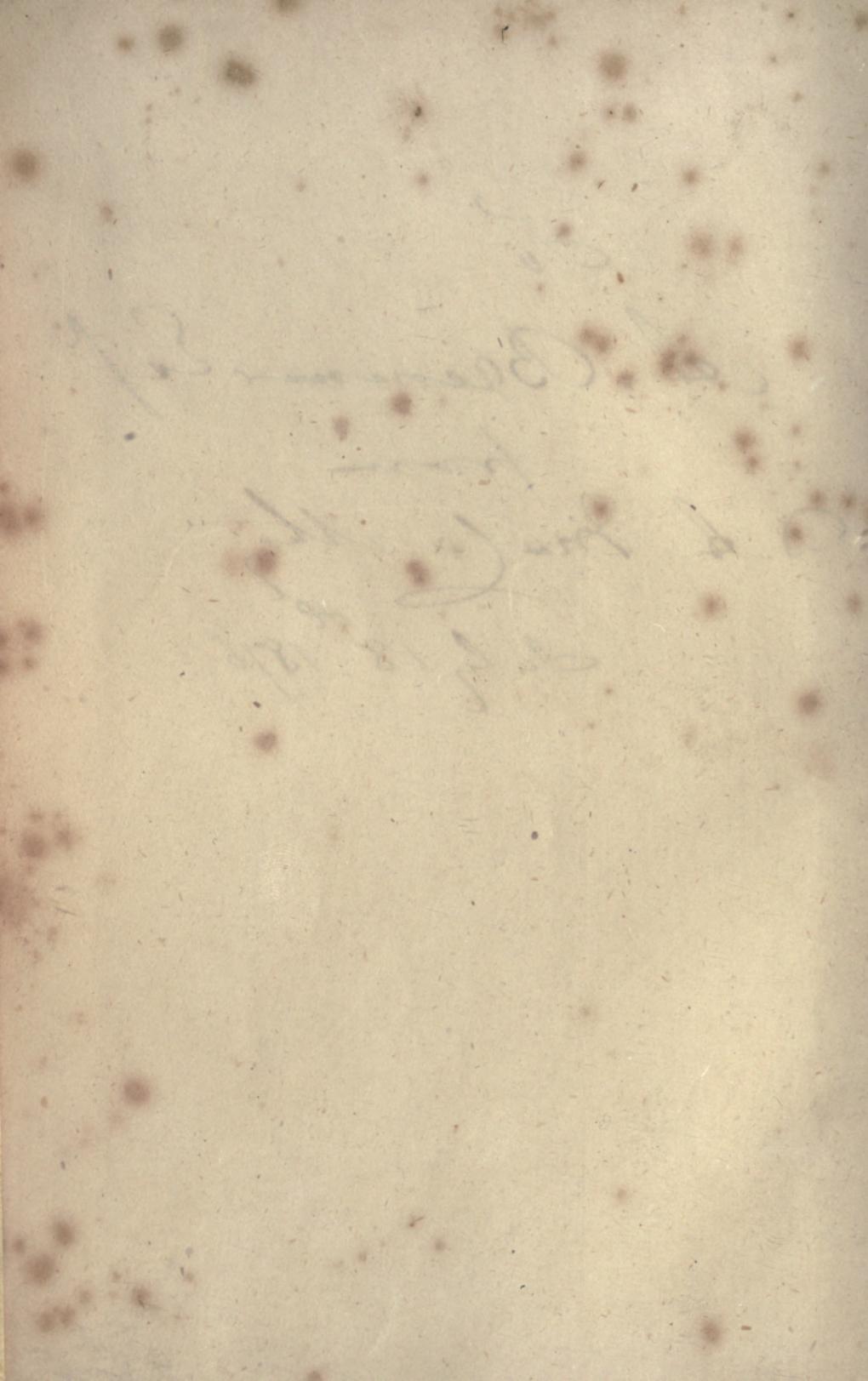


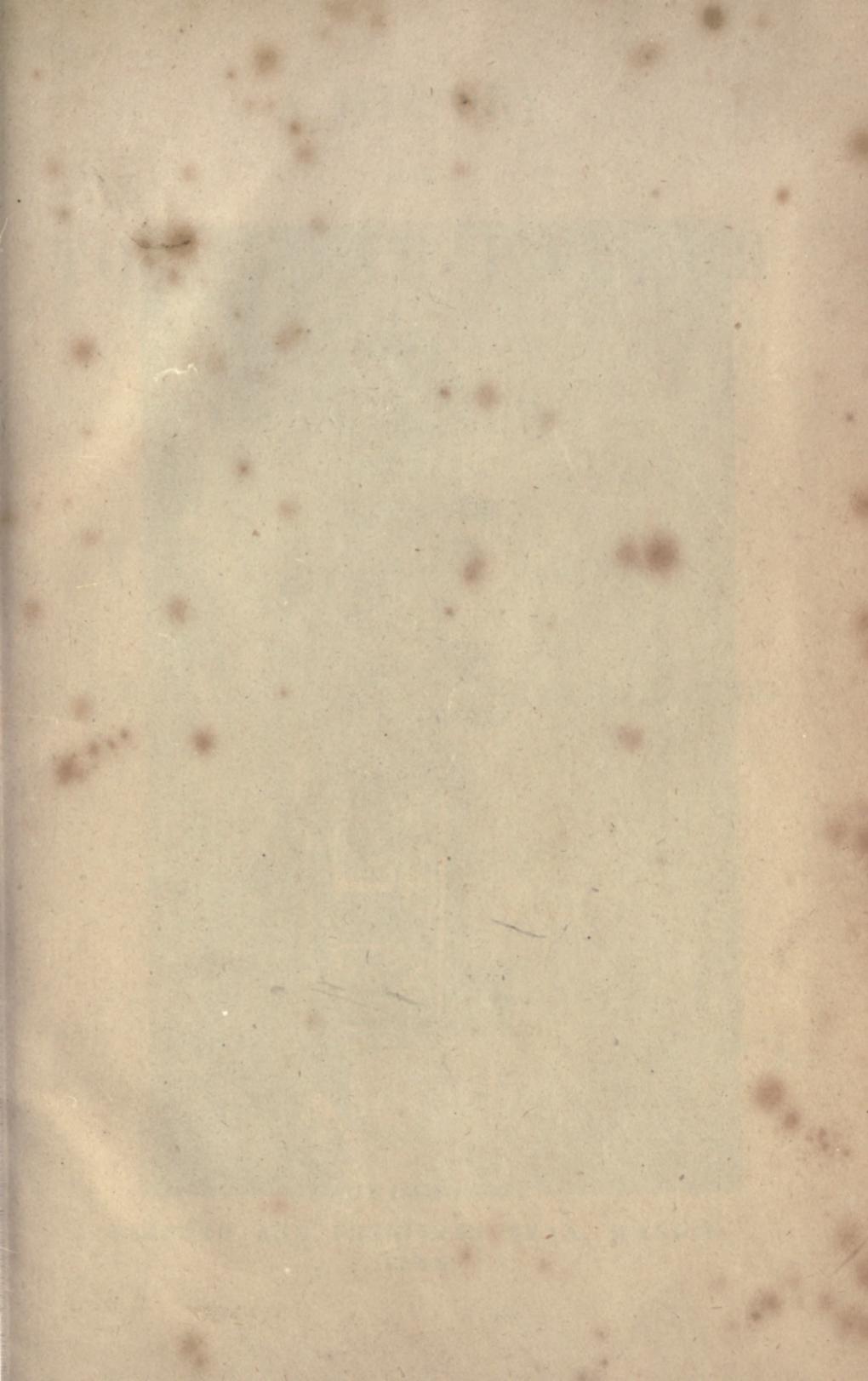
HISTORY  
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To  
A. Bremer Esq.  
from  
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July 18<sup>th</sup> 1876

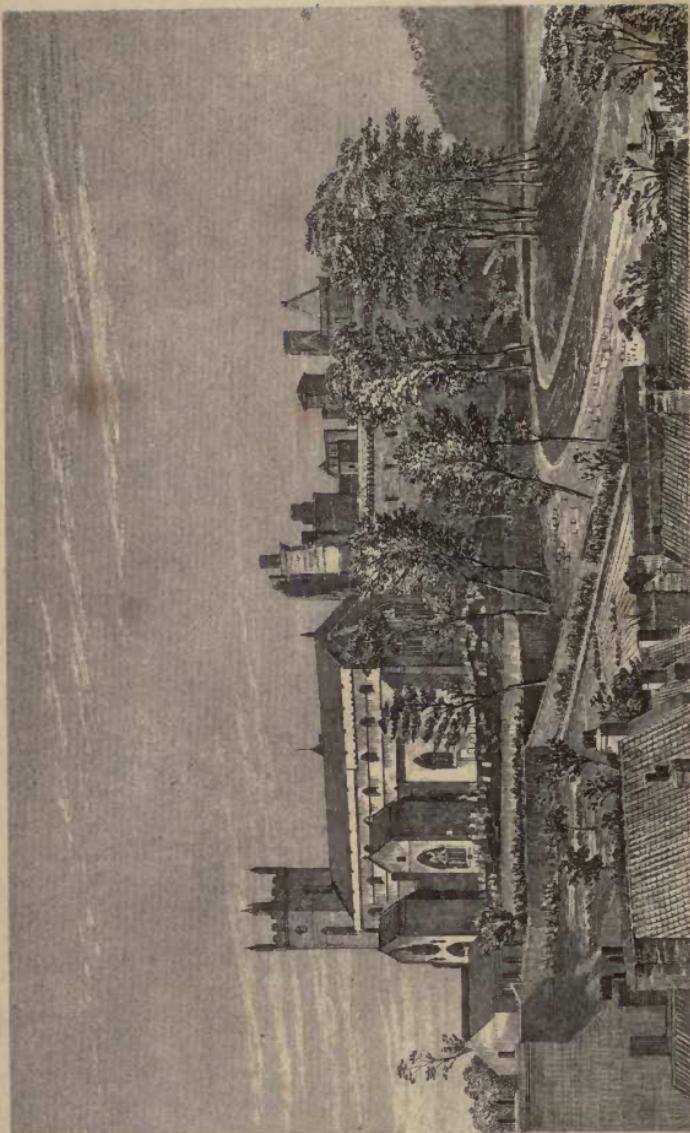




D. Nisbett Esqr.

LINLITHGOW PALACE AND CHURCH  
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# A HISTORY OF THE TOWN AND PALACE OF

## LINLITHGOW;

WITH

*Notices, Historical and Antiquarian,*

OF

PLACES OF INTEREST IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

BY

GEORGE WALDIE.

Second Edition.

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LINLITHGOW:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY A. WALDIE.

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## NOTE TO SECOND EDITION.

IN addition to the acknowledgments in the preface, I have, in this edition, to thank Treasurer PARK for copies of a few interesting documents; and Mr ALEXANDER BROWN for his arrangement of “The rock and wee pickle tow.” An Index, and a few notices, which have not before appeared, have also been added, and such corrections made as have appeared requisite.

LINLITHGOW, March, 1868.

---

## PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

IT was originally intended that the following pages should appear as the third edition of a smaller *Sketch of the History of the Town and Palace of Linlithgow*, which, for the convenience of visitors, was published some years ago. The amount of interesting matter, however, contained in the older Burgh records, and in recent publications, to which I have since had access, has enabled me to present a new, and much fuller, and more interesting account than formerly. I had, when preparing the second edition of the above-mentioned Sketch, explored the Council Minutes from 1620 till 1724, and had taken a series of notes, which have served me in good stead now. The older minutes of the proceedings in the Burgh-Court—the open Council of old times—I was not, however, aware of the existence of until they, along with many other documents, were introduced to my notice by W. H. HENDERSON, Esq., who has had occasion, both for literary purposes, and for matters connected with Burgh business, to examine the contents of the Charter-chest, and the other records. To his very complete lists of the various documents I have been indebted for much information. To ADAM DAWSON, Esq., Treasurer of the Burgh; and to ROBERT R. GLEN, Esq.,

Town-Clerk; my thanks are also due for the ready access afforded to the records in their keeping. I have also to thank Mr GEORGE HARDIE, Session-Clerk, for the access afforded to the older minutes of Kirk-Session. To many other friends I am indebted for the use of books, inspection of private papers, and other assistance; to the COUNTY LIBRARY for a perusal of some of the old Acts, and other printed public records, of which it consists; and to the ADVOCATES' LIBRARY for a sight of some of the valuable historical club publications. To Mr GEORGE BROCKLEY I have been indebted for much of what has been preserved traditionally, and for many valuable hints; and to Mr PETER Dow for the excellent Photographs from which the Engravings have been taken, as well as for others of some portions of the old records which defied me to read properly. To Mr SMITH, the present ranger of the Palace grounds, I am also indebted for pointing out some matters connected with the Palace which came under his observation during the recent workings. I have likewise to thank the gentleman who kindly furnished me with the very complete account of the burning of the Covenants. To ARCHIBALD GEIKIE, Esq., of the Government Geological Survey, I am indebted for the very lucid and interesting sketch, which appears in the Appendix, of the Geology of the district: and which, it is to be hoped, is only the prelude to a more extended work.

I had not proceeded very far when I found that the subject had never been subjected to any thorough investigation, and that there was much of error to be cleared away, and much in connection with it that had not, in previous accounts, received due prominence. I do not profess, however, to have exhausted the subject, nor can I hope that more careful examination may not prove me to be in some instances in the wrong.

My attention was caught, at an early stage of the investigation, by one of the papers read at the meeting of the Archaeological Institute at Edinburgh, in 1856, by JOSEPH ROBERTSON, Esq., of H. M. General Register House, Edinburgh, by which a considerable amount of light was thrown upon the history of one portion of the Palace; and upon application to him, Mr Robertson not only very kindly consented to the insertion of a portion of the paper, but proffered his assistance in the prosecution of the work. Some of my obligations to him will be found acknowledged in the course of the narrative; and, besides these, I am indebted to him for extracts from the Royal Treasurers' accounts, and other hints and information not specially noticed.

## ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

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P. 9.—The house here referred to has been taken down, and replaced by a private dwelling-house. The old stone has been preserved in the back wall of the house.

Pp. 15, 16.—THE ANTONINE WALL.—An interesting discovery was made, in April 1868, of a Roman Legionary Tablet, at Bridge-ness, in the parish of Carriden. The Tablet is the largest and finest yet discovered on the line of the road or wall, and it is now deposited in the National Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh. The slab is of freestone, 9 feet long, 2 feet 11 inches broad, and about 9 inches thick, with holes cut into the edges at the back for fastening it into the wall. At one end, in relief, is a victorious Roman riding over dead and wounded Britons; and at the other the representatives of the Second Legion offering up sacrifice. The inscription reads—  
IMP. CAES. TITO AELIO HADRI. ANTONINO AUG. PIO. P.P. LEG. II. AUG.  
PER M. P. IIIIDCLII FEC.—which has been translated: [Dedicated] to the Emperor, Cæsar Titus Ælius Hadrian Antoninus Pius, the Father of his country. The Second Legion [surnamed] Augusta has made 4652 paces. The Roman pace of two steps was 4·84 yards, so that the length of this bit of work was 4 miles 465 yards. The place where the Tablet was found is a small promontory called Bridgeness, a corruption, possibly, of Burg-ness; and here, in all probability, was the eastern extremity of the Antonine Wall. A quantity of squared stones were found along with the Tablet, but the exact nature of the building of which they formed part has not

#### ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

been ascertained. Some of the stones have been built up by Mr Cadell, of Grange, the proprietor, as a frame-work for a facsimile of the inscription, erected at the spot where the Tablet was found. Photographs of the Tablet were taken at the time it was found.

Pp. 46, 47.—For choir, read easter part ; and for chancel, read wester part.

P. 88.—PARISH OF BINNY, &c.—After the Reformation, Linlithgow, Kinneil, Carriden, and Binny, were attached to Linlithgow, which was a collegiate charge, with two ministers. Kinneil and Carriden got a minister between them in 1588 ; Carriden had a minister of its own in 1621 ; Borrowtounness was disjoined from Kinneil in 1649, and re-united after 1690. Binny does not appear to have ever had a minister for itself ; and the second charge of Linlithgow was suppressed in 1744.—See Hew Scott's *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ*.

POPULATION.—The Census of 1871 shews a decrease in the population of the Town of 154, the present population being 3689 ; the population of the County is 40,915, there being an increase of 2516 since 1861.

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## THE ORTHAND

WORLDSIDE BUT ONE: WITH A HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY AND

## THE ORTHAND

CHURCH, KINGDOM, AND COUNTRY; WITH A HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY AND

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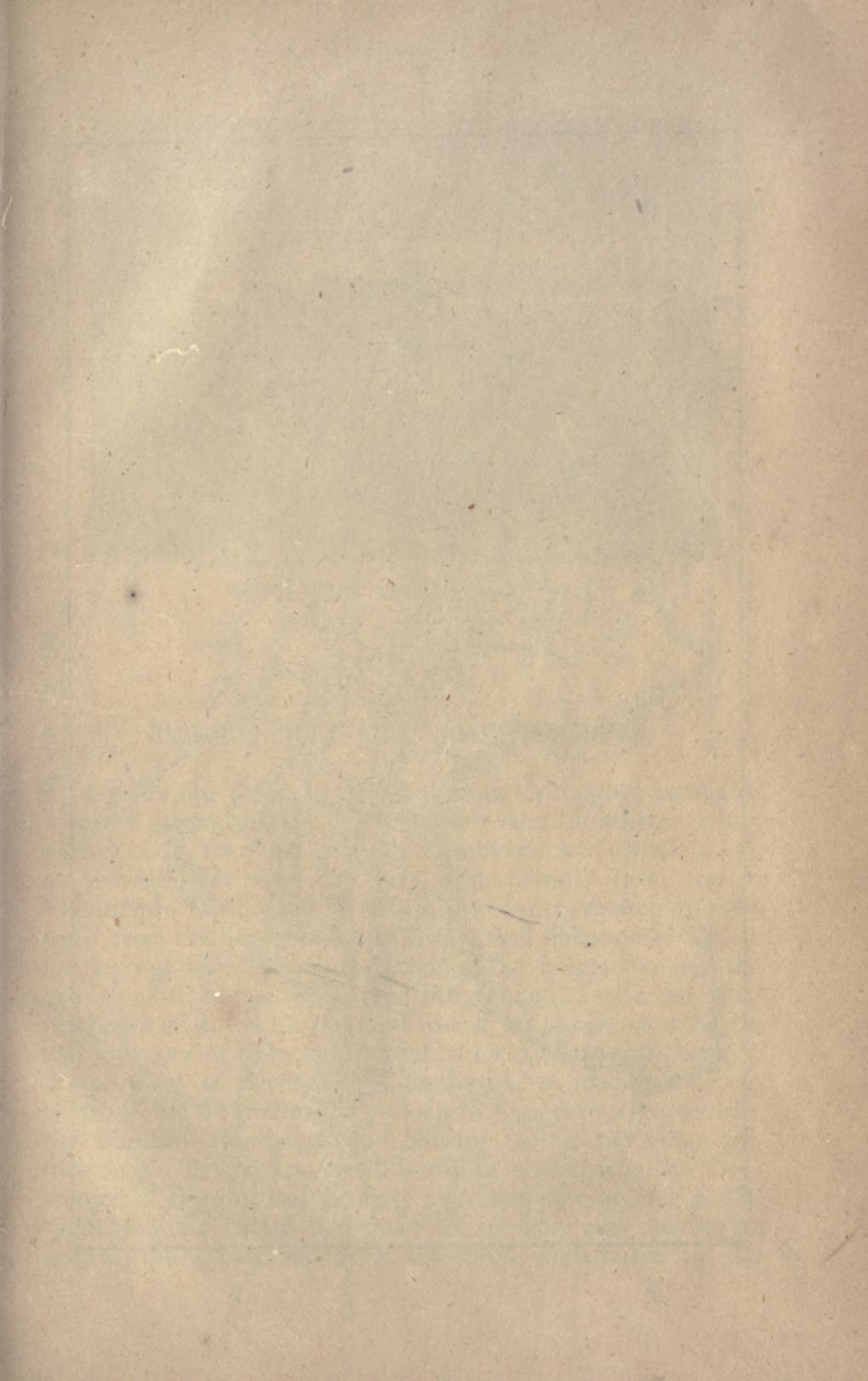
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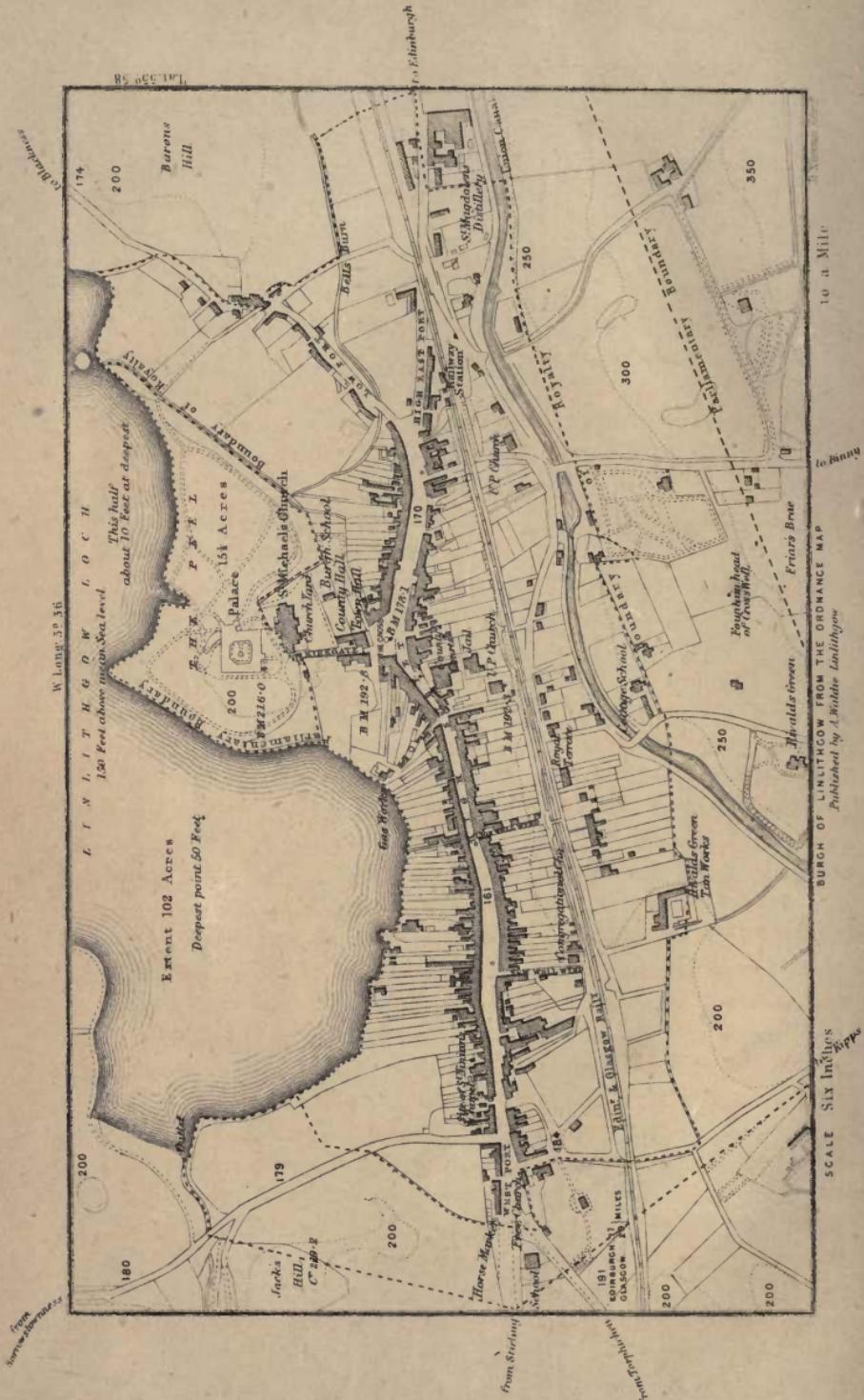
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Square Tower, near Railway Station.

## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTORY AND ARCHITECTURAL.

THERE are few places in Scotland more thoroughly associated with the general history of the country than Linlithgow, lying, as it does, on the road between Edinburgh and Stirling, and on the verge of what has very appropriately been named “Scotland’s Battle-field”—that is, the country stretching eastward from Stirling. Its early Castle and subsequent Palace too, having been a favourite abode of the kings, favoured the growth of the town, which was early endowed with the usual privileges of Royal Burghs, and rose so far in comparative size and influence as to be substituted in 1368, along with Lanark, in the place of Berwick and Roxburgh, as members of the Court of the Four Burghs, so long as these two were held by the English—Edinburgh and Stirling being the other two members. This court, which is still in existence as the Convention of Burghs, had formerly extensive powers, such as the regulation of all matters of trade not specially provided for by statute, the apportionment of the taxes contributed by the

Burghs, sometimes the farming of the great customs, and generally the preservation of the rights and privileges of the Burghs against encroachment. Linlithgow too, as a town, is one of the best-preserved specimens of an old Scotch Burgh we have, and, including the Palace, its remains of the old times are varied and interesting.

According to Tytler, and other authorities, the houses of the burgher class were, down to the fifteenth century, invariably built of wood, and as the town was twice burnt—in 1411 and 1424, the majority of the houses in the town must have been built since that time. It may be presumed, however, that the houses of the greater landowners, as well as the convents, churches, and public buildings, were of stone. There are few of these still existing in the town which have not undergone some alteration or addition to fit them for the purposes of subsequent inhabitants. The most obvious of these alterations is an addition in front, generally with a corbie-stepped gable-end to the street. A prominent example, and one of more architectural pretension than the others, stands on the west side of the Market-place, and bears the date 1675. The plan of the great old house seems to have consisted of a long single house (that is, of only one room in width), and of three to five stories in height, with a wide close or entry to the back premises, where were situated the stables, cellars, and other necessary buildings. The only instance in the town of a square tower is that given in the engraving at the head of this chapter, where a very good example of the old staircase also occurs, at the back of the narrow oblong house, of date about 1700, in front. In the Temple-tenement opposite the Cross, the original stair remains in front, and enters from the street, a new front having been added to the old house in a line with the outer wall of the staircase. The position of the original fronts may be very well seen by examining the gables of the houses, and the closes. In all these old houses the under-stories and closes are invariably solidly arched, and in some instances there are underground vaults, regarding which there are the usual vague traditions of subterraneous communications with the Palace. There is another style of alteration, not so apparent, but worthy of notice, where the house has been gutted and refitted internally, an instance of

which occurs in the old house which belonged to the Cornwalls of Bonhard, situated to the west of the new Commercial Bank—a fine building in the Scotch Baronial style. A stone built in above the close bears date 1527, and the motto, VE BIG YE SEE VARLY [we build you see warily],—the coat of arms, on a metal plate, has been removed. One of these Cornwalls, who bore a great resemblance to James IV., was killed at Flodden, fighting, it is said, as one of the six who, to deceive the enemy, were dressed in the same way as the king. There are other patchings of various dates on these old towers, some of which form curious and not unpicturesque combinations. It will be observed that the fronts of some of the houses are back from the line of the street. This, in the case of most of the old houses, arises from the abolition of the wooden “galleries” which used to form the medium of communication between the apartments, and which latterly, when glass became cheap, were glazed in front and converted into a second series of apartments. This style of house may be seen perfectly preserved in the present day in the “Rows” of Chester.

The town, as may be seen by reference to the map, lies between the loch and the huge gravel mound on which stand the Palace and Church on the one side, and a steep rising bank on the other, the portion of the street east from and including the Cross being much wider than the longer portion to the west. This mainly arises, no doubt, from there having been more level ground to build upon, although there is some not very certain tradition of there having been a gate at one time at this point dividing the burghal from the royal or aristocratic portion of the town.

It does not appear that there was ever any wall other than that of the “yaird heads,” which each proprietor was bound to keep in proper repair, but which, with the “ports” or gates, of which there is now nothing remaining, seems to have been sufficient defence for all ordinary occasions. The town life of the olden time seems to have been somewhat different from that of the present, the burgesses being perhaps as much farmers as tradesmen; one of the old *Leges Burgorum* bears, indeed, that “no man may be Burgess unless he have [in property] a rood of land at the least.” Traces of this state of

things, fast disappearing, are still to be found in the “acres” or small parcels of land in the neighbourhood of towns, and bearing the names of their former owners; and the following, from a document preserved amongst the town’s papers, forms a still more curious memorial of it:—

POINTS OF THE HEAD COURT OF THE BURGH OF LINLITHGOW.

1. { Who Keeps Horses, Cows, or Sheep, and hes not Grass in the Summer  
nor Provender in the Winter to mentain them, But oppress their  
Neighbours by Eating their Grass and Corns both night and day.
- 2.—Who Keeps ffoull Horses.
- 3.—Who Pulls their Neighbours Stacks.
4. { If it be known that any persons are seen among their neighbours Vic-  
tuall by Moonlight or other unseasonable hours.
5. { What Children and Prentices are ordinarily amang the Stacks Pulling  
and destroying the Pease and Breaking the Stackyeard Dykes & Doors.
6. { Who Breaks their Neighbours yeards and Destroys Dovecoats or Bee-  
hives.
7. { Who deceitfully breaks Bulk of their Coall Loads by the way coming to  
the Town for their own use or for Sale to others.
- 8.—Who keeps ffowles that Destroys their neighbours houses and Victuall.
- 9.—If any are ordinar Swearer, Drunkards, and Nightwalkers.
- 10.—If any are Guilty of Cutting Young Planting or Destroying Inclosures.
- 11.—If any hes done Violence to others not Devulged.
12. { If any Person hes Removed March Stones, Land Marks, Breaking  
Baulks or otherways.
- 13.—If ye know any Waith Cattle or other Goods, or found or Stoln Gear.

The most remarkable private building in the town is that of which the old square tower near the Railway Station forms a part. It is said to have belonged to the Knights Templars before the suppression of that order, and subsequently to have been the town house of the Knights of St John, or Knights Hospitallers. There have been two courts surrounded by buildings arched on the ground floor, the courts communicating by an arched way under the square tower, which is again twice arched over internally at different heights. One of the side buildings with an open oak roof and a fine old fire-place, has possibly been the common hall of these military monks; their chapel has probably been in another part of the building, now destroyed, where a stone coffin containing bones, which crumbled to dust on their exposure to the air, was found some years ago. The building, it is said, was once occupied as a Dominican convent, but the establishment seems to have been extinct at the time of the Reformation.

Of the Palace, it may be assumed that the body of the present erection has been built since the wars of the Edwards. With the important exception to be afterwards noticed, the southern half of the west side seems the most ancient part of the building, but even this is doubtful, there having been so many changes of plan and style. As it stands at present, it may be described as an immense square tower, with a court in the middle, the original ornamentation being confined to the battlements, which are supported by corbels, and the heaviness of the mass relieved by additional towers at the corners within the battlements, and the tops of the four spiral staircases which formed turrets peeping over the roof, and having battlements to which steps ascend outside. One of these is usually called “the Tyler’s” [watchman’s] tower, and another “Queen Margaret’s Bower,” from the story that Queen Margaret often sat there watching for the return of King James IV. from Flodden, has a pleasant little octagonal turret a-top, with loopholes looking out in all directions, and a stone seat round the inside, while around the outside a now ruinous open spiral stair led to the summit. The north side of the quadrangle of the Palace—in which is the “fair face” of the following extract from a valuable paper read by the late Mr Joseph Robertson, at a meeting of the Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, held in Edinburgh in 1856—was rebuilt in 1619–20, as the dates on it bear, and in the style then prevalent, some alterations being at the same time made on the windows of the west side, and furnishes an excellent illustration of the writer’s closing remarks. After treating of the Edwardian castles, and of those immediately succeeding, he proceeds :—

Of these oblong towers, one of the earliest and best examples is that of Drum, in Aberdeenshire. Merchiston, in the suburb of this city, and Cawdor and Kilravock, in Nairnshire, are excellent examples of the later style of the second half of the fifteenth century. Borthwick—about ten miles to the south of Edinburgh—is, without question, by far the noblest structure of this class which we possess. It was built a little before the middle of the fifteenth century—an epoch when Scottish architecture, fostered by the love of art which the ill-starred King James III. transmitted to so many of his ill-starred descendants, began to recover from a long season of depression. But its progress was slow, and it is not until near the beginning of the sixteenth century that we can be said to reach a new era. . . . . The chivalrous King James IV. was, in the latter years of his reign, an

energetic builder ; but it is not easy always to distinguish between what he built and what was built by his son, King James V. It is important to know from records that both Princes employed continental masons—in the reign of the former, an Italian was at work upon Holyrood ; in the reign of the latter, Frenchmen were busy at Stirling, at Falkland, at Holyrood, and at Linlithgow. Of this last edifice—the finest altogether of our Scotch palaces—the larger and better part belongs to the first half of the sixteenth century. What it possesses of foreign aspect is doubtless due, along with the foreign features of Stirling and Falkland, to their foreign builders. In Linlithgow, I may add, the ornamentation partook of the spirit of allegory which runs through the contemporary poetry of Dunbar, Gavin Douglas, and Sir David Lindsay. The now empty niches above the grand gateway in the eastern side of the quadrangle were filled with statues of a pope, to represent the Church; a knight, to indicate the Gentry; and a labouring man, to symbolise the Commons—each having a scroll above his head on which were inscribed a few words of legend, now irretrievably lost. All this I learn from the records of the year 1535, which further show that this group, together with the group of the Salutation of the Virgin upon the other side of the quadrangle, and certain unicorns and a lion upon the outer gateway, were brilliantly painted. The external use of gaudy colour survived in Scotland to a comparatively late date. In the records of the year 1629, for instance, I find a sum of £266, charged for “painting his Maiesties haill rowmes in the Pallice of Linlithgow, both in sylringis [ceilings], wallis, doris, windowis, bordaris above the hingingis ; and for furnisching all sortes of culouris and gold belonging thairto; and lykwayes for painting and laying over with oyle culour and for gelting [gilding] with gold the haill foir face of the new wark—that is the north side of the quadrangle built by King James VI.]—with the timber windowis and window brodis, stair wyndowis and crownellis, with ane brod for the Kingis armes and houssing gilt and set of ; and lykwyse for gelting and laying over with oyle culour the Four Orderis [that is, the four orders of knighthood held by King James V.] above the vter yett, and furnisching all sortes of gold, oyle, and warkmanschip thairto, and for laying ouer the two vnicornes and gelting of thame.” . . . . The vestiges of brilliant colouring are still perceptible in the crypt of Glasgow ; and dim outlines of once resplendent forms are still to be discerned on the walls of the castle halls of Borthwick and Craigmillar. If I give way to the temptation of saying something upon painted glass, it shall be but a sentence or two. In each of the five windows of the chapel in Linlithgow Palace was a figure or image of what the records of 1535 call “made work”—that is, pieced work or mosaic. The price of this was 6s 8d a-foot—the price of the white or common glass being thirteenpence a-foot—both sums, of course, being Scotch money. The five images cost altogether less than £10—the plain glass in which they were set costing £15. The painted glass of the five windows of the Lion Chamber of Linlithgow, executed in the same year, 1535, cost £7—the common glass costing less than £4. To the same age with most part of the quadrangle of Linlithgow, the finest of our Palatial courts, belongs the most part of the quadrangle of Crichton, the finest of our castle courts. Here, again, we meet the marks of foreign taste. . . . I now reach the last, the most prolific, and, as I think, the best age of Scotch secular architecture. King James V. was still busy with his buildings at Holyrood and Linlithgow, at Stirling and Falkland, when the route of Solway broke his heart in 1542. The tumults and wars of the Reformation—extending

through the distracted minority, and still more calamitous reign of his hapless daughter—were fatal to all the arts ; and when at length they began to revive under the more peaceful rule of King James VI., about 1570, it was to show how vital a change had been wrought in architectural form and feeling, during an interval of forty years.

To the above it need only be added that the “Lyon Chamber” has been ascertained, from information furnished by Mr Robertson, to be the large hall of the Palace, commonly called the “Parliament Hall” from the circumstance that some meetings of Parliament were held in it,—but, as these occasions were few in number, with a long while between each, and as the holding of Parliaments was not the purpose for which it was built, it would be in better taste to call it by its old name. The names of the rooms in these great houses were often given from their principal decorations—thus, according to Mr Robertson, the “court of Troy,” in Holyrood, was so called because it was hung with tapestry on which were represented some incidents of the siege of Troy. The Lyon Chamber would in like manner be so called from the emblazonments of arms with which it would be decorated, the principal one being of course the LION of Scotland. One of the vaults below used to be popularly known by the name of “the lion’s den”—but whether this was a degenerated tradition of the name of the Lyon Chamber, or whether James IV., who was a wild-beast fancier, actually kept here some part of his collection is not known.

The spirit of allegory which is above alluded to in connection with the statuary of the inner court of the Palace, is farther carried out on the elaborate fountain which adorned it, and again in the Cross-well of the town, an erection originally of about the same date, in which the allegory, as might be expected, is of a less refined character. The other wells for which the town is celebrated in the popular rhyme—

Glasgow for Bells,  
Lithgow for Wells,  
Falkirk for Beans and Pease—

a rhyme usually wound up by defaming some other town “for Clashes and Lees”—are noways remarkable for their architecture, but two of the oldest bear the heads and names respectively of the Lion-well and the Dog-well, and one of them called after St Michael, bears his image a-top, and has

inscribed the date of the erection of the present structure, 1720, with the hospitable legend—the origin of which is now unknown—**ST MICHAEL IS KINDE TO STRANGERS.**

The Church, of which Billings, in his *Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities*, says that it is “assuredly the most important specimen of an ancient parochial church now existing in Scotland, both as to dimensions and real architectural interest,” will be more fully treated of in another chapter. The only other old building of any architectural pretension, the Townhouse, was originally built in 1668 in an Italian style, with flat roof and ballustrade, and open ballustraded double staircase in front leading to the entrance on the first floor—the jail being beneath. It has undergone many mutations, but still, from the excellence of its original proportions and its prominent position, presents a respectable appearance. The Clock, supplied by public subscription in 1857 to the tower in place of the one which was destroyed in the fire of 1847, was erected by Mr Mackenzie, mechanist, Glasgow, and is the first turret clock constructed in Scotland on the same principles as the celebrated Westminster Palace Clock—the works being principally cast-iron, and the escapement the new gravity one.

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## CHAPTER II.

### EARLIEST HISTORY AND TOPOGRAPHY.

FOR the times preceding the reign of David I. (1124), the precision of written evidence is nearly awanting; but the general features of the history of this district have been pretty clearly made out by our antiquaries from the remains of the works and languages of successive settlers, and from such scanty notices as tradition and co-temporary writings have preserved.

Of the works of the Celtic tribes in this country, the neighbourhood of Linlithgow affords a now half-ruined Cromlech

which stood within a circle of standing stones near the old mansion-house of Kipps, once the property and residence of Sir Robert Sibbald, physician to Charles II., and the only historian the county has found—the *Topographical and Historical Account of Linlithgowshire*, often quoted as *Penney's*, though really forming an excellent county history, being a reprint of the matter contained in *Chalmers's Caledonia*, published in a separate form, with a few additional notes, and a whimsical preface and pseudonyme. On the range of trap hills lying to the south of the town, particularly on Bowden, Cairnpapple, and at Ochiltree-mill, there are fine specimens of what are called Hill-Forts; and there and at other places stone cists or coffins are now and then disinterred. Some of these are doubtless referable to the Celtic period, as the names of some of the places in the neighbourhood bear witness, as *Cath-law*, a mixed Celtic and Saxon name, and *Arn-cath*, wholly Celtic, both signifying the same thing—the hill of the battle; the latter name being still applied to the north slope of *Glowrrowrem*, the hill to the north of Linlithgow, regarding the battle on which tradition says that it was fought between the natives and the Roman legions.

That Linlithgow was in these earliest times a town or hamlet, is a traditional belief, and it has been held that it was the site of a Roman settlement of some sort, and on the first of these points the tradition seems uniform and unchallengeable. The name, *Lindum*, of the Roman geographer, was at one time thought to apply to Linlithgow, but this notion is now abandoned, and no remains of Roman architecture have hitherto been discovered in the immediate neighbourhood—an urn containing 300 coins, however, was, in 1781, turned up by the plough on the Burghmuir, about a mile to the east of the town. At the period of the Roman invasion, the district was inhabited by a Celtic tribe known as the Gadeni, and was afterwards comprised in the Roman province of Valentia.

The site of the eastern end of the fortification which the Romans threw across the island from the Forth to the Clyde, lies about four miles to the north of Linlithgow, and a road, said to have been a Roman one, runs along the summit of the hill between, passing on its way the farm-steading now called

Walton, but in old writings Weltoun, from the Roman well still existing there. Traces of Roman fortification existed in the neighbourhood of Carriden till the beginning of the present century, and one place still retains the name of Graham's Dyke. The old monkish writers distinctly state that the wall commenced two miles west from Abercorn—a description which can apply only to Blackness—but give the names, in various spelling, of Kinneil and Carriden, places some miles farther west. An altar, a legionary tablet, pottery, and other articles, have been found at various times near Carriden, and the remains of the wall itself may still be seen on the top of the high bank overhanging the Carse on the Stirlingshire side of the Avon.\*

The name of the town is evidently Celtic, as its three constituents are still to be found in the Welsh language—*Llyn*, meaning a lake, *Llyth*, width, and *Cw*, a hollow or valley—so says Chalmers. The name seems descriptive, and taking *Lled*, half, for the second syllable, gives the perfect description—the valley of the divided lake. Many curious etymologies have been given of the name—*Lin* always remaining the same—as *lith*, a twig, and *cu*, a dog, and *liath*, grey, and *cu*, a dog, from Gaelic dialects—etymologies which have been gravely supported by the consideration that the town's arms include a “greyhound bitch, sable, chained to an oak tree”! though it is not at all impossible that the arms may have been adopted from the name so translated; *lith*, snug or sheltered, and *gow*, a valley, alleged, but according to Chalmers, incorrectly, to be from the Saxon. Buchanan, in his History, calls it *Limnuchum*—probably a Latinised form of a Gaelic name,—and in this disguise it often appears afterwards in Latin compositions and inscriptions. The old spellings, it may be remarked, almost invariably end with *qw*, and *Linlythqw* is the most prevalent in the times when spelling was very much a matter of fancy; *Linliskeu*, *Linliscoth*, and *Linlychku*, are among the exceptional versions.

The division of the *Lin* or loch must have been even a more conspicuous object at the time the name was given than it is

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\* For a more minute and learned discussion of this subject see the new *Statistical Account*—parishes of *Borrowstounness* and *Carriden*—from which the above particulars are mostly taken.

now, as beds of sedges, and other vegetation, have been found nearly ten feet over the present level, and in one instance, in the eastern part of the town, the paddle of a canoe was got in digging for the foundation of a house. The loch, indeed, must have covered at one time all the low-lying parts of the town, and may even have stood about forty feet higher than at present, as, excepting the very narrow outlet which the stream has cut through the gravel at the west end, there is no way by which the water could run off below that height; and the Palace mound must have existed in pre-historic times as an island in the middle of an extensive lake.

Of the long period which intervened from the withdrawal of the Romans, about the year 422, till the final incorporation of the Lothians with the Scottish kingdom about 1020, there is little to relate, although Villemarque, in his valuable edition of the *Gododin* of Aneurin, the Welsh poet, sets down *Lec'h-leiku*, to the valiant men of which the poet makes allusion, as the county of Linlithgow. The Anglo-Saxon races seem to have made their settlements here during the fifth and sixth centuries, and if Sir James Simpson's speculation regarding the Catstane, near Kirkliston, be correct, we have there the grave and tombstone of the grandfather of Hengist and Horsa. The kingdom of Northumberland stretched, in 617, under King Edwin, from the Humber to the Avon, and there was an Anglo-Saxon or Northumbrian monastery at Abercorn, which was also the seat of a Bishopric, about this time, not far from the present church of that parish; but the only remaining fragment of building which can be supposed to be connected with the monastery is the sculptured shaft of a stone cross built into the wall of the church. The establishment appears to have been abandoned at the end of the seventh century in consequence of its having been exposed to the inroads of the Scots, to which *Saxonia*, as the Lothians were at that time called, was frequently subjected. A rude and mutilated statue found at Blackness, and at present lying in the Castle, is probably a work of this remote time.

The name *Lothian* is supposed to be the Saxon word *Lothing*, signifying a border district, and was first applied to the whole coast from the Tweed to the Avon; and Linlithgowshire, Edinburghshire, and Haddingtonshire, are still denomina-

nated respectively West, Mid, and East Lothian. The division of West Lothian is very naturally formed by the waters of the Almond on the east, which flows into the Firth of Forth at *Cramond*, the *Alaterva*, a principal port of the Romans, and the Avon on the west, which anciently, before the Carse was gained from the sea, joined the Firth at *Inveravon*, near *Kinneil*, a Celtic name signifying the head or end of the wall, and which probably was the place where that work terminated at the time of its first formation ; a probability strengthened by the fact that the name, Caer-eden, is supposed to signify the fort on the wing or extension.

The only other historical memorial of the Northumbrian time preserved in the district is an old tradition that there was in Linlithgow, or its neighbourhood, some stone or erection called "King Cay's Cross,"—supposed to have had some reference to King Achaius (who died 819), the sixty-fifth king of Scotland of the old chroniclers—and which may possibly have been one of those memorials of strife which abounded in the county, it having been for a long time a sort of debateable land. The names of the principal old farmsteadings show a considerable preponderance of Scandinavian settlers.

From the time of Malcolm II., who compelled the cession of the Lothians about 1020, through the reigns of Kings Duncan and Macbeth to the accession of Malcolm III. (*Cean-mohr* or bighead) in 1057, there is nothing extant of local interest. It was in Malcolm's reign, in 1066, that William of Normandy invaded England and assumed its crown, and the event has left some record in this neighbourhood in the names of *Port Edgar* and *Queensferry*. The story goes that Edgar Atheling, the heir to the English throne, with his mother and sisters, flying from the invaders, were obliged, by stress of weather, to take refuge with their ships within the quiet waters of the Firth of Forth above Queensferry, and landed at a spot since called Port Edgar. The eldest of the sisters, Margaret, was shortly after married to King Malcolm, and the passage or ferry, either from her frequent use of it in her journeys between Dunfermline and the south, or by her organising a regular ferry service at it, came to be called by the name of the Queen's ferry. The sheltered waters of the

Firth too, where hundreds of windbound vessels may yet be seen riding in safety, have since borne the name of *St Margaret's Hope*, or harbour.\*

The heights, in the few following notes, are taken from the Ordnance Maps, and are given as likely to be of general interest. The high hill to the south of the town is called *Cocklerue*—sometimes Frenchified into *Cuckold-le-roi*—its summit is 911 feet above the level of the sea; to the west is *Bowden* (749 feet), on which is the most remarkable ancient fortification in the neighbourhood, and beyond which lies *Torphichen*. The hills to the east of Cocklerue are called *Broomyknowes*, or *Riccartoun Hills* (832 feet); and the abrupt crag still farther to the east and south is *Binny Craig* (718 feet), which, travellers say, gives, viewed from the railway, a very good idea of the bulk of the great Egyptian pyramid. The highest point on this range of eminences and in the county, 1016 feet above the level of the sea, is on *Cairnpapple*, near Bathgate. *Glowrowrem* (559 feet), the hill to the north of the loch, is so called from the extensive views it glowers or looks over on all sides; the Monument commemorates an uncle of the present Earl of Hopetoun, Brigadier-General the Honourable Adrian Hope, who fell in the Indian Mutiny, in 1858, at Rooeah, in Oude. The hill to the north-east, with the tower on its summit, is *Binns* (372 feet), the property of the *Dalyells*—the tower is a recent erection.

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### CHAPTER III.

#### THE CRUSADING TIMES AND WARS OF INDEPENDENCE.

IT is in the reign of David I. (1124-53), fully one hundred years after the Lothians became finally a portion of the Scottish kingdom, that light begins to be thrown, to any con-

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\* For a detailed account of Queensferry, and its neighbourhood, see Mr Fyfe's *Summer Life in South Queensferry*.

siderable extent, on the state and history of the country, by documents, preserved for the most part in the Registers of abbeys and priories. The foundation of both towns and churches, the first mention of which is found in the records of his time, is often erroneously ascribed to David, whose liberal donations of property in his burghs and domains, and of the revenues of churches, to the monasteries, drew from one of his successors the grumbling compliment that he had been “a sair Sanct for the Crown.”

His grants here include:—to the abbey of Dunfermline, a house in the town; to the priory of St Andrews, the church, with its chapels and lands, as well within burgh as without; and to the abbey of Holyrood, the skins of all the sheep and cattle [made use of] at his Castle, or that should die on his domain, of Linlithgow. In the reign of David, then, we find at Linlithgow, a royal residence; a church dedicated to St Michael, endowed with houses and lands, and with dependent chapels; and a king’s burgh, or, as termed in later times, a royal burgh, which had been a seat of population from an unknown antiquity.

It was about 1153, too, that Torphichen became the property and the seat of the principal House in Scotland of the Hospitallers, the famous Knights of St John of Jerusalem. This and the similar orders, the Templars and the Teutonic Knights, instituted during the first Crusade for the protection and service of pilgrims to the Holy Land, from the great possessions they were endowed with in almost every country in Europe, became powerful bodies, forming, with the troops they were able to maintain, the principal support of the subsequent Crusades. Besides their Preceptory and lands at Torphichen, the Hospitallers held property in the burgh of Linlithgow, and, after the suppression of the Templars in 1312, became possessed of the property originally belonging to that powerful order. Both properties, as well as the manor of Kirkliston, which originally belonged to the Templars, have all been confounded together under the names of Temple-lands and Temple-tenements. Of the Preceptory at Torphichen scarcely a trace remains, though it was a sufficiently extensive erection to accommodate the magnates of the kingdom who adhered to him when assembled under Wallace’s Guardianship, as well as

to afford accommodation in turn to the retinue of Edward I. An agreement between the Priory of St Andrews and the Brethren of Torphichen may be found in the Register of St Andrews (1162-77), whereby the chapel of Torphichen is bound to pay a mark of silver annually to the mother church of Linlithgow as composition for burial dues. The transept, or as popularly styled, "the quier" or choir of a fine church in what is called the early second-pointed style, and some faint traces which are pointed out as foundations of the Preceptory buildings, are all that remain of this once great establishment, except, perhaps, a stone in the churchyard, marking (it has been supposed) the centre of the sanctuary or place of refuge, which extended, it is said, for about a mile round.

From the ecclesiastical records of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries may be gleaned incidentally that there was a school in Linlithgow in 1187, and the fact that a very large portion of the lands in the neighbourhood pertained to the crown. Amongst the private properties we find Ochiltree, which, as we learn from an agreement for erecting a private chapel there, belonged to Alexander, son of William Thoraldson; and Binny was then held by William de Lindsay, the record of whose grant of a piece of land to the church or chapel of St Giles of Binny, has been preserved. One of the witnesses to this deed bears the name of Turstan, the son of Leving, one of the progenitors, it may be presumed, of the future Earls of Linlithgow and Callendar. The Dundases of Dundas, also, appear, from other sources, to have been settled within the county at even an earlier date.

It was during this period that the burgesses, it is said, were able, in 1290, to found a Carmelite Friary, the third of this order founded in Scotland, and which existed till the Reformation. No vestige of the building now remains, but the place where it stood retains the name of the Friar's Brae, and a modern dwelling-house on their property is still known by the name of the Teind Barn. A predecessor of the present Parish Church, of what dimensions is now unknown, was also built in the reign of Alexander II., and dedicated or opened in 1242. The church was served by a vicar, and the vicar's house stood, as in after times, near the church, on the site, it

is believed, of the present Burgh School or of the County Hall. The Rural Deanery of Linlithgow was then, also, nearly co-extensive with the present presbytery of the name. From a short deed by Edward III. of England, while he held this part of the country, granting, in 1335, the custody or keepership of it to a priest of the name of John de Swalund, we learn that there was a public Hospital then in existence—supposed to have been situated east of the town, where also stood St Magdalen's Chapel. Emmanuel Convent, for Bernardine or Cistertian Nuns, was also one of the foundations of this time. It was founded by Malcolm IV., David's successor, in 1156, and appears to have been then and subsequently within the county or constabulary of Linlithgow. A small portion of the building yet remains on what is now the Stirlingshire side of the Avon; and what are now called the Burgh Mills was one of the gifts of Alexander II. to the convent. A very perfect example of the church architecture of the first half of the twelfth century may still be seen in the parish church of Dalmeny; and one less perfectly preserved, of the fourteenth century, in the chapel of the Carmelite Friary at South Queensferry.

The twelfth and thirteenth centuries seem to have been a period of considerable prosperity in Scotland. The Norman power and dynasty were not, until near the end of this period, so firmly rooted in England as to allow its rulers to turn their attention seriously to the reduction of Wales and Scotland. Edward I. had but lately completed the conquest of Wales when Alexander III. was accidentally killed near Kinghorn, in 1286, and his successor, his infant grand-daughter Margaret, died on the voyage from Norway in 1290, furnishing by the disputes as to the succession an opportunity for interference which the able Edward was not slow to take advantage of; and now ensued that long period of war and devastation which laid the foundation of the mutual hatred with which the two countries so long regarded each other; even in 1481 we find the estates of Scotland, in that usually dry and formal document, an Act of Parliament, describing Edward IV. as "the Revare Edward calland him king of Ingland." Prior Winton, who wrote an *Orygynale Chronykil of Scotland*, in the early part of the fifteenth century, gives a popular rhyme, often

quoted as the earliest specimen of the language in use in Lowland Scotland in the beginning of the fourteenth century, and which, at least gives fit expression to the sad and wistful feelings with which the people would look back upon the times byegone.

“ Quhen Alyssander, oure kyng, wes dede,  
 That Scotland led in luwe\* and le, †  
 Away wes sons‡ of ale and brede,  
 Of wyne in waughts, of gamyn and gle.  
 Our gold was changyd into lede.—  
 Christ, born in-to virgynyte,  
 Succour Scotland, and remedie,  
 That stad § is in perplexyete.” ||

Amongst the great families settled in the neighbourhood, we find Sir Nicol de Graham of Abercorn, a relation of Sir John de Graham, also of Abercorn, the friend and companion of Sir William Wallace; Sir Nicol being the only person from Linlithgowshire who sat in the great Parliament held at Brigham in 1290. In 1296, Sir Nicol re-appears as swearing fealty to Edward I., after the country had, as Edward thought, been finally annexed to England; William and Freskin de Douglas, and Serle and Saer de Dundas, the progenitors of some of the great families of these names, also appear in the Ragman Roll, as it is called, as well as John Rabuck and John of Mar, the two bailies of the burgh, Andrew the Serjeant, William o the Hulle, John the Porter, Matthew of Kinglas, Henry of the Wro [Wrea], Philip of Abernethy, Gilbert of Hildeclive [either Hillhouse or Hiltly], William Fitz Ernande [Ernandson], Michael the Lardener, Nicol the Serjeant, the burgesses, and whole community of the burgh.\*

In two years the exertions of Wallace had cleared the country of Edward's troops, and Wallace is found, in March

\* Love.      † Tranquillity.      ‡ Abundance.      § Placed or situated.

|| Chalmers, in his dissertation on the Scoto-Saxon Language of Scotland, prefixed to his Edition of Sir David Lyndsay's Works, says, “as this song is much more refined than the speech of England at the same period, we must regard it as the language of the chronicler.” It is possible, though, that the substance of the rhyme may be more ancient, as, if the words of the chronicler be as usually quoted, “ wine and wax,” or as sometimes “ wine and war,” it would show that the rhyme was an imperfect quotation, the sense requiring not “ wine and wax,” nor the more absurd “ wine and war,” but “ wine in waughts”—in copious draughts, that is, not sparingly.

\* Ragman Roll, p. 124.

1298, issuing his mandates from Torphichen. Edward, returned from Flanders, was soon in Scotland again at the head of a powerful army; which lay, from the end of June till the 22d July, stretched along the country, waiting for supplies by sea.\* On the 22d of July the battle of Falkirk was fought, in which the Scottish army was routed. Edward is said to have spent the night previous to the battle of Falkirk on the Burgh-muir, about a mile east of the town; and there is a spot in a field to the north of the Blackness road which has been pointed out as the place where he took his station; and the tradition as to the place is not improbable, as it commands an extensive view westward as far as Wallace-stone above Polmont, from which point, as the tradition of the district goes, Wallace viewed the battle, or, which is as likely, contemplated the advance of the English army. On his return from the north, Edward is found again making his head-quarters at Abercorn, on the 15th of August. There is a story, not very explicit as to time, in Blind Harry, to the effect that after the battle of Falkirk, Wallace sent a party headed by "Earl Malcolm" by way of the Carse—

"To Inneravin the low way to ride,  
That Southren watches might not them espy,  
The other hosts himself led hastily,  
By-the-south Manuel, where they were not seen  
Of the outwatches there had planted been."

And he goes on to relate how the attack was made suddenly, within the town, and ten thousand slain, Edward himself having been nearly taken, and forced to retire to England. This story has met with little credit from our historians. Wallace's name has fixed itself in the neighbourhood of Torphichen, in "Wallace's bed" on the top of Cocklerue, and "Wallace's cave" on the river Avon.

On the occasion of his expedition in 1301, Edward fixed his winter quarters here, and remained over an unusually early winter from 1st November till 31st January following.

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\* Edward's head-quarters have been placed—by Tytler, following Hemingford, at Kirkliston or Templeliston—by Carrick (in his life of Wallace) following Blind Harry, at Torphichen, and because there was accommodation at Torphichen, and none, for a month's sojourn, at Kirkliston. The Knights-Templars owned the manor of Templeliston or Kirkliston, but it is not certain that they had a preceptory there.

It was at this time he built the castle described by Barbour as “a Pele, mekill and stark”—that is, large and manifestly strong—on the site, it may be presumed, of the old castle; and here, through the mediation of Philip of France, he made a truce with the Scots. In 1303 Edward was back, irresistible as ever, and by 1305, with Wallace slain, Scotland was once more at his feet. A Gascon Knight, Pier or Peter Luband, was, on the settlement of the affairs of the conquered country, left in charge of the castle of Linlithgow, and, it appears from orders of Edward II., had charge under him of the castles of Livingston and Edinburgh also.

Till the hay-harvest of 1313, the castle, and of course the district, remained in possession of the English, though it would appear from the way in which the castle was taken, that the dwellers in the neighbourhood ardently sympathised with the successes of Bruce, who by this time had recovered nearly the whole of Scotland. Through the narratives of historians and story-tellers, the tale of the capture of the castle has become “familiar as a household word.” The hero of the story, William Bunnock, was a “husband” or farmer whom the garrison employed because he lived at hand, to lead or drive in the hay from the fields they had in the neighbourhood. He is described by Barbour as “a stout carle and a stour, and of himself dour and hardy,” and he appears to have been possessed of some grim humour—telling his employers, on the night before, that in the morning he would bring them “a fothyr”

“Fayrar and gretar, and weill more  
Than he brocht ony that year before.”

Having spoken to some of his neighbours, they agreed that eight of them should lie concealed beneath the hay in the waggon, and that a number more should lie in ambush ready to complete the capture after the gate or entrance had been secured; and, so having arranged, he drove his waggon to the castle, and the porter having opened the gate, Bunnock drove his waggon into the gateway, and crying “call all! call all!” (the signal agreed on), cut with the hatchet he had provided the soyme or rope fastening the horse, brained the porter, and forthwith the men from the waggon engaged the soldiers left in the castle, and being immediately joined by those who lay

in ambush, the place was taken ; the remainder of the garrison who were working in the fields, when they learned how matters stood, fleeing, some to Edinburgh and some to Stirling, places which still remained in the possession of the English. Edinburgh Castle was taken shortly after this by Randolph and his daring band, and in one of its dungeons was found Sir Piers Luband, whose fidelity to England had been suspected by the garrison : whether his remissness in allowing the castle here to be taken had anything to do with this it is impossible to say, but he then entered into the Scottish service,\* and possibly fought at Bannockburn on the right side.

Bunnock of course immediately acquainted King Robert with his success, and was "worthily rewarded" by, it is said, a grant of land in the neighbourhood. The castle Bruce ordered to be demolished—"gert drive it doun to the ground," says Barbour, and no farther mention of it has been found until 1350, thirty-seven years after, when David II. is found giving John Cairns, an inhabitant of the town, the liferent of the park round the castle, on condition of his making some necessary repairs on it for the king's coming.

It is highly probable that the demolition of the castle only extended to those extra works reared by Edward during his three months' occupancy. What the nature of these was may be inferred from the style of the other castles which Edward reared to secure his conquests. Here, it would probably be a high and heavy wall, strengthened at intervals by still higher and strongly-built round towers, such as those the remains of which may still be seen at the east side of the palace, and which have been retained as piers for the flying buttresses supporting the wall. The connecting wall, which is five feet thick, has been almost entirely ruined, but portions of the original masonry still remain, easily distinguishable from the patched portions ; and the foundation of the wall running westward from the corner tower was laid bare in the course of the recent improvements on the grounds. The stone of which the towers have been built has withstood the weather well, a mason's mark being still discernible on the exterior of the large one. The old castle would probably be enclosed, with

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\* Tyler's *History of Scotland*.

any additional buildings necessary, within the new enclosure, and may have been left standing when the fortifications erected by Edward I. were demolished; otherwise, a new castle must have been built by Robert I. or David II.\*

Edward II. is found here, in October 1310, in the course of his expedition of that year; and would pass his ruined castle in June 1314, on his way with his host to relieve Stirling, and back again, his object unaccomplished, with only five hundred horse, and daringly pursued by Douglas with eighty, from the memorable field of Bannockburn.

Once more was the district annexed to England in 1334, during the usurpation of Edward Baliol, in the minority of David II., but though, as has been already mentioned, an order of Edward III. is still in existence having reference to the Hospital of the town, no mention has been found of the castle, from which it may be presumed that it was not re-edified as a “mekill and stark” castle like that of Edward I. That the castle was habitable in the time of David II. has already been noticed.

It was in the period under review, and in the century following, that the burgh was really a place of comparative importance amongst the trading communities of the country. “The Chamberlain received that year (1369) of Customs from the burgh of Dunbar, a hundred and fourscore and seventeen pounds. The Customs of Haddington yielded £873; Edinburgh, £3849; Linlithgow, £1403; Stirling, £106; Perth, £710; the City of St Andrews, £172; Aberdeen, £1100; Dundee, £800; Montrose, £244; Elgin, £71; Inverness, £56; Ayr, £25.”† Its situation near Blackness—the safest and most convenient anchorage for shipping in the inner waters of the Firth—was perhaps the principal source of its prosperity, the burgh having the exclusive right of exporting or importing goods on the shore of the Firth from Cramond to

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\* Cardonell is the only writer who has noticed this. It has been overlooked in all subsequent writers whose accounts I have seen. Not having seen Cardonell and suspecting that these towers were remains of Edward's castle, I communicated the suspicion to the late Mr Joseph Robertson, who, after examination, was of the opinion, that the form of the towers, particularly at the base; the nature of the masonry; and the pointed arching; were all decidedly characteristic of the Edwardian castles in Scotland.

† Innes' *Scotland in the Middle Ages*.

the Avon. It was on account of its being the most advanced position in convenient proximity to the sea, as much as from other considerations, that Edward I. fixed upon it as a place for his head-quarters in this district. Linlithgow appears, by Thomas Lethe, in the first Scotch Act of Parliament in which the representatives of burghs are enumerated, in 1367, along with the burghs of Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Perth, Dundee, Montrose, and Haddington; and, as has been already mentioned, Lanark and Linlithgow were taken, in 1368, into the Court of the Four Burghs in place of Berwick and Roxburgh, then in possession of the English.

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## CHAPTER IV.

### THE STUARTS, AND THE DOUGLASES.

THE line of the great Bruce was now to be succeeded by that of the brilliant but unfortunate Stuarts. The Douglases—the descendants of the “good Sir James” who had fought so well under King Robert—were now growing into a great and powerful house, with aspirations after supreme power in the state; and these aspirations, the extinction of the direct line of the Bruce, seemed a fit opportunity for realising. At this period and afterwards, down to the forfeiture of the “Black Douglases” in the reign of James II., they held extensive estates in this neighbourhood; and it was here that Earl William convoked his vassals and adherents, and proclaimed his intention of disputing the title of the Steward. The combination, however, of the Stewards’ supporters, who immediately advanced under Sir Robert Erskine, obliged the Earl to abandon the attempt; and the subsequent marriage of King Robert’s daughter, Isabella, to the Earl’s eldest son, and other concessions, had to satisfy, for the time, the ambition of the Douglases.

The Stewards were before this connected with the district, having lands at Bathgate, and a castle, the site of which is still

pointed out, near that town ; and with Robert II. the castle of Linlithgow appears to have been a frequent residence. He is found in August 1388 holding a Council-General or Parliament here, and the earliest charter in the possession of the burgh, granting to the community the firms or rents hitherto drawn by the King's chamberlain, for an annual payment of five pounds sterling,\* was given while he was residing in the castle in October 1389. The castle appears, also, to have been one of the principal residences of Robert III., who is found holding a Parliament here in 1399. The only other events of which history has preserved any record in connection with the place for the next thirty years, are the facts that the town was destroyed by fire in 1411, and again in 1424, the year in which James I. returned from his long captivity in England. In the fire of 1424, the Church and the Castle, or Palace as it is termed in the account of this catastrophe, also suffered. It does not appear whether James I. ever resided within the walls of the castle, but it is highly probable that he did, since during his reign some silver coins were minted here, showing that there was a royal establishment of some sort kept up. The house at the south-west corner of the market-place long retained the name of the "Cunzie-neuk," or, as we would now call it, Mint-corner.

The power and pride of the Douglases reached their highest point in the reign of James II., when it came to be virtually a question of who should be king. In this neighbourhood, they held the castles of Inveravon, Blackness, and Abercorn. Blackness was burnt or destroyed in 1443, by Crichton the Chancellor, in the raid he made on their lands here, during the minority of the king. Inveravon was reduced by James himself, in 1454, and left in ruins; and Abercorn, the strongest

\* The following extract from a letter of Mr Robertson's, clears up this subject—one which popular writers on antiquities do not seem to have properly understood hitherto.—"Chalmers's distinction between a royal burgh and a king's town in demesne is a distinction which had no existence in Scotland in that age. It may or may not have had a charter; but a charter was not necessary to its existence as a burgh, although convenient as evidence of the fact. It was not until King Robert Bruce's reign, that the crown began to lease out burghs to the corporation or community of the burgh, at fixed rents. Before that time every burgess paid his own individual rent for the burgh land which he held, to the King's Chamberlain, who for that purpose visited the burgh every year."

of the three, and, according to Buchanan, the strongest of the whole of their castles, was reduced, after an arduous siege of a month's duration, in the beginning of 1455. This last and crowning victory of a somewhat dubious war, was commemorated, as Buchanan put it, by leaving the castle half-demolished for its monument.

Of the castle of Abercorn, only a circular mound remains, marking the position possibly of one of its round towers, the fragments of its walls having been removed or covered up when the grounds around Hopetoun House were laid out. It stood on a sort of peninsula, crowning the steep sea-bank. Of Inveravon castle, which, from a similar position, overlooked the Carse of Falkirk, and commanded the lowest ford on the Avon, only the fragment of a round flanking tower remains; and all tradition of its having been, four hundred years ago, a castle of the Douglases, having been lost, it remained, until Tytler published the facts as recorded in the *Auchinleck Chronicle*, a puzzle to antiquaries: the most popular account being, that it was a Roman watch-tower on the line of the great wall. Blackness castle, which was by-and-bye rebuilt, is a castle still; but its history, about this time and previously, is more obscure. If it was, as there is great probability, the termination of the later Roman wall, and the *Caer-eden* of the monkish writers, it is one of the oldest castles in Scotland.

It appears to have remained in ruins for some time after their downfall, having been granted by a charter under the great seal in 1465, to the burgh of Linlithgow, for the purpose of constructing a new port or pier at Blackness, and with power to make use, for this purpose, of the stones of the castle, which was to be razed to the ground, and the hill and rock, from St Ninian's Chapel to the sea, all round the promontory, were to belong in future to the burgh. The principal reason given for this grant was the "vexations, troubles, harassments, and extortions" formerly practised by those who held the castle, upon the merchants of the burgh and others frequenting the port. The building of a new pier may have been carried into effect, but the grant itself seems to have been recalled by the act of 1476, revoking all grants made in the minority of James III., and especially of such places as were considered to be "keys of the kingdom." On the top of the castle-hill

of Blackness are still traceable the foundations of an extensive building, about 150 feet in length, by from 30 to 40 in width, regarding which no tradition can be found, and which may possibly have been part of the early castle—the present one being built on the projecting rocks, almost entirely within high-water mark. In 1481 an English fleet burnt the shipping at Blackness, and, one account says, the castle also. If it was destroyed it must have been quickly rebuilt, as it is found in use as a state-prison in 1489.

The lands of the Douglases in this neighbourhood were now conferred upon the Hamiltons, whose desertion from the Douglases at a critical time had been of material benefit to the King's cause; and considerable portions of them still remain in the possession of their descendants.

It would appear that the burgesses of Linlithgow had been faithful supporters of the crown through all these troubles, as well as sufferers by them; the charter of 1451, freeing them from payment of duties on salt and skins, being evidently intended as a compensation for their losses.

The minority of James III., who was left under the care of his mother and the good Bishop Kennedy, was passed to a considerable extent peacefully at Linlithgow, one of the domains and palaces assigned for the residence and support of the Queens-Dowager. Henry VI. of England, when dislodged from the throne by Edward IV., seems to have been indebted to the Queen for a temporary residence here in 1460.

The forcible seizure of the King's person, and the power it conferred, which ended so fatally for the Livingstons in the former reign, was now about to be repeated by the Boyds, and with like results; and it was after the Queen and the wise old Kennedy were dead, and Lord Livingston held rule as chamberlain, that the faction headed by the Boyds formed the resolution, which they carried into effect while the king sat in his Exchequer Court in the Palace, of carrying him off and assuming the government of the country.

An old historian says of James III. that "he was much given to buildings, and repairing of chappels, halls and gardens, as usually are the lovers of ease; and the rarest frames of churches and palaces in *Scotland* were mostly about this time." In the Palace, the beautiful groining, in what are called

the bedroom and dressingroom of James III.;\* the elaborate termination of the newel of the north-west staircase; and the groining in the apartment beneath the bedroom; are probably specimens of the palatial architecture of this reign. The western half of the present Parish Church was also probably built in the reign of James III., or very early in that of James IV., the large bell in the steeple bearing date 1490; and, as will afterwards be shown, from the manner in which such "werks" were conducted, it would be many years a-building. The bell is a remarkably fine-toned one of about a ton weight; and it bears, in addition to the royal arms, a copy of the old seal of the burgh, and the inscription—



X Lynlithqw . villa . me . fecit . vocor . alma . maria . domini . jacobi . quarti . tempore . magnifici . Anno . milleno . quadrigeno . nonageno.†

On the lower margin is the accompanying monogram—probably the founder's. The bosses on the roof of the chancel aisles still retain two coats-of-arms—the three cinquefoils of the Hamiltons, and three crescents within a bordure of roses, the arms probably of the Melvilles of Railt and Murdocairney. The north transept, now occupied as the vestry, bears the greyhound, tree, and loch of the burgh arms, and the south transept, a much defaced half-length St Michael.

The pacification of Blackness is the next prominent historical incident which occurs in the neighbourhood during the reign of James III.; and this was followed shortly afterwards by the assembling of Angus, old "Bell-the-cat," the chief of the "Red Douglasses," with the Humes, the Hepburns, and their adherents, with "the prince" nominally at their head; and here they "made proclamation to all manner of men that would come and defend the prince." The battle of Saughie

\* The only legend or motto remaining in the Palace, occurs on the bosses of these groinings. Two of the bosses bear an unicorn reposing under a tree, with the motto—*BELLE A VOUS LEULE*.

† "The Town of Linlithgow made me, in the reign of the august Lord, James the Fourth, in the year one thousand four hundred and ninety. I am called Blessed Mary." The second bell, re-cast in 1773, bears only the names of the founders, and a copy of both sides of the town's large seal. The third, re-cast in 1718, is called "SICUT QUONDAM [as formerly] MEG DUNCAN."

and the slaughter of the King followed ; and the conspirators returned here next day, still uncertain whether the prince were now James IV. In the distribution of offices under the new government are found the Vicar of Linlithgow, one of the Hepburns, clerk of the rolls and council, and Sir William Knollys, lord St John, treasurer to the King ; and here, as appears from the Treasurer's Accounts, as quoted by Tytler, the young King, with his mistress Lady Margaret Drummond, held high revel in the autumn of the same year, "encouraged by the obsequious father and the nobles who filled the principal offices about court."\*

James IV. appears to have been a frequent resident in the Palace. Amongst the memoranda preserved in the Treasurer's Accounts are sundry donations to the Chapel of St Ninian here, one of which is, "1507, Nov. 26, Item, to the preist of Sanct Ninianes chapell to theke it, xiii sh." This was a chapel, whether built at this time or previously existing is not known, which was situated at the West-port of the town ; and which must, not very long after, have gone to decay, as it is described in the charter disposing of it, in 1562, as having been for many years in ruins. St Ninian was a favourite saint of King James IV., and there are frequent entries in the Treasurer's books of gifts to the priests of St Ninian's Chapel here, at Blackness, and at Stirling. The plain circular arch of a doorway of the Blackness chapel is preserved, near its original position, in the gable of a barn at Blackness.

It would appear that the population of the town had increased at this time, as very probably had that of the country generally. There is a document of date 1492, in the Burgh Charter-chest, wherein the King grants to the community a rood of land from the Peel to increase the size of the church-yard, and binds them at the same time to build a stone-wall to stop the passage to the Peel and gardens. The wall was to extend [in a line drawn] "from the north wall of the Pallace to the Vicar's garden."

The only other memorable events recorded of the reign of James IV. in connection with Linlithgow, are the birth of James V. in the Palace, 10th April 1512 ; and one of the

\* Treasurer's Books, August 5, 1488. To the players of Lythgow that play to the King, v lb. August 20, Item, to dansaris and gysaris, xxxvi sh., &c.

ludicrous attempts to awe a high-spirited though conscience-burdened prince, into the abandonment of the expedition which ended so disastrously at Flodden in 1513. The quaint account of this transaction by Lindsay of Pitscottie is the most reliable :—\*

The King came to *Lithgow*, where he happened to be for the time at the Council, very sad and dolorous, making his Devotion to God to send him good Chance and Fortune in his Voyage. In this mean Time, there came a Man clad in a blue Gown in at the Kirk-Door, and belted about him in a Roll of Linen-Cloth : a pair of Brotikins on his Feet, to the Great of his Legs, with all other Hose and Clothes conform thereto ; but he had nothing on his Head, but syde [long] red yellow Hair behind, and on his Haffits [cheek-blades], which wan down to his Shoulders ; but his Forehead was bald and bare. He seemed to be a Man of two and fifty Years, with a great Pyke-Staff in his Hand, and came first forward among the Lords, crying and speiring for the King, saying, *He desired to speak with him*. While at the last, he came where the King was sitting in the Desk at his Prayers : But when he saw the King, he made him little Reverence or Salutation, but leaned down groflins [gruffly] on the Desk before him, and said to him in this Manner, as after follows. *Sir King, my Mother hath sent me to you, desiring you not to pass, at this Time, where thou art purposed ; for, if thou does, thou wilt not fare well in thy Journey, nor none that passeth with thee. Further she bade thee mell with no Woman, nor use their Counsel, nor let them touch thy Body, nor thou theirs ; for if thou do it, thou wilt be confounded and brought to Shame.*

By this Man had spoken thir Words unto the King's Grace, the Even-Song was near done ; and the King paused on thir Words, studying to give him an Answer : But, in the mean Time, before the King's Eyes, and in the presence of all the Lords that were about him for the Time, this Man vanished away, and could noways be seen nor comprehended, but vanished away as he had been a Blink of the Sun, or a Whip of the Whirlwind, and could no more be seen. I heard say, *Sir David Lindesay Lyon Herald*, and *John Inglis* the Marshal, who were, at that Time, young Men, and special Servants to the King's Grace, were standing presently beside the King, who thought to have laid Hands on this Man, that they might have speired further Tidings at him : But all for nought ; they could not touch him ; for he vanished away betwixt them, and was no more seen.

James V. was little more than a year old when his father fell at Flodden, and the usual unsatisfactory state of affairs ensued, from the rival pretensions of the nobility to the possession of power. It is not likely that such an occurrence as the following could have happened, except in a minority (about 1517), almost under the windows of Holyrood ; and as the story itself is vividly illustrative of the state of society and of the country in these “good old times,” besides having some

\* The reader who may prefer Sir Walter Scott's metrical version of the story will find it in the Appendix.

connection with the locality, Pitscottie's narrative may not be unacceptable to the reader. The hero is the "Squire Meldrum" of Sir David Lindsay.

In this mean Time, *Delabatie* being Regent, as we have shown, remained in the Abbey of *Holy-rood-house*, and a Guard of *French-Men* about him, to the Number of fourscore of Hagbitters, to be ready at his Command when he charged. And so it happeneth at this Time . . . there was a Gentleman in Edinburgh, named *William Meldrum Laird of Binns*,\* who had, in Company with him, a fair Lady, called the Lady *Glenaeagles*, who was daughter to Mr *Richard Lawson of Humby*, Provost of *Edinburgh*; the which Lady had born to this Laird two Bairns, and intended to marry her, if he might have had the Pope's Licence, because her Husband before and he were sib [nearly related]: Yet, notwithstanding, a Gentleman, called *Luke Stirling*, envied this Love and Marriage betwixt thir two Persons, thinking to have the Gentlewoman to himself in Marriage; because he knew the Laird might not have the Pope's Licence by the Laws: Therefore he solisted his Brother's Son, the Laird of *Keir*, with a certain Company of armed Men, to set upon the Laird of *Binns*, to take this Lady from him by Way of Deed; and to that Effect, followed him betwixt *Leith* and *Edinburgh*, and set on him beneath the *Rood-Chapel*, with fifty armed Men; and he again defended him with five in Number, and fought cruelly with them, and slew the Laird of *Keirs* principal Servant before his Face, defending himself; and hurt the Laird that he was in peril of his Life, and twenty six of his Men hurt and slain; yet, through Multiplication of his Enemies, he was overset and driven to the Earth, and left lying for dead, hought of his Legs, and stricken through the Body, and the Knops of his Elbows stricken from him. Yet, by the mighty Power of God, he escaped the Death, and all his Men that were with him, and lived fifty Years thereafter.

In the mean Time Word came to Monsieur *Delabatie*, where he was at that Time, in the Abbey of *Holy-rood-house*, that such a Nobleman was slain and murdered at his Hand. And he incontinently gart strike an Alarm, and blew his Trumpets, and rang the common Bell, commanding all Men to follow him, both on Foot and Horse, that he might revenge the said Slaughter; and rushed fiercely forward to the Place where the Battle was stricken, and saw this Nobleman lying deadly wounded, and his Men about him in this same Manner; and past fiercely after the Enemies, and Committers of the said Crime, and overhyed them at *Lithgow*; where they took the Peel upon their Heads to be their Safeguard, thinking to defend themselves therein; notwithstanding, this noble Regent lap manfully about the House, and sieged it continually, till they rendred the same to come in his Will; who took them and brought them to *Edinburgh*, and gave them a fair Assize; who were all convicted and condemned of the said Crime; and thereafter were put in the Castle of *Edinburgh*, in sure Keeping, induring the Regent's Will.

The Douglases, under the popular cognomen of "the Red Douglases," from the fair complexion of the Angus branch of this great house, rose once more into power in 1525, with possession of the King, who was now about thirteen. The

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\* Not *Binns* here, but *Binns* in Fife.

first attempt to overturn them was made by the Earl of Arran, who advanced to Linlithgow, in the neighbourhood of which the various families of the Hamiltons had large estates. They mustered a force of about five thousand men, but were immediately obliged to disperse, by the prompt advance of Douglas and the King at the head of a superior force. The bold stroke of declaring, by Act of Parliament, the king no longer a minor, leaving the former Act as to the keeping of the King's person in force, shortly followed; and now Angus and the Douglases were the masters or the tyrants of the state, with all its patronage distributed amongst themselves and their adherents, and no man daring to say that a Douglas's man did wrong.

The King, taken from the schools, and from his well-loved familiar servitor Sir David Lindsay, endured the thraldom of the Douglases with great impatience. The unsuccessful attempt of Scott of Buccleugh to effect his deliverance, was followed shortly after by a more formidable one by the Queen's party, headed by the Earl of Lennox. Assembling a force of ten thousand men at Stirling, they marched towards Edinburgh to try conclusions with the Douglases, and were met about a mile west from Linlithgow by the Earl of Arran with a body of the Hamiltons, who were now in league with Angus. Arran held the bridge over the Avon, below which for some distance the passage of the river was not easily practicable, with the steep banks which bend round Manuel Haugh, above; and Lennox was under the double disadvantage of fording the river and forcing the heights between Manuel Convent and the bridge. Angus, to whom word had been sent of the meeting, came quickly to the assistance of Arran. Sir George Douglas followed with the King, whose sympathy with Lennox was so little concealed, that his conductor was tempted to tell him that "Before the enemy shall take thee from us, if thy body should be torn in pieces, we shall have a part." Angus fought with the division under the Earl of Glencairn, and the Hamiltons with that under Lennox, and both Lennox and Glencairn were defeated. Glencairn's life was saved by Sir Andrew Wood of Largo, who was despatched by the king to stop the slaughter, but Lennox, after having surrendered to the Laird of Pardovan, was slain by Sir James

Hamilton. The spot where Lennox fell was afterwards marked by a heap of stones long known as Lennox's cairn, and one of the hillocks is still known as the Peace-knowe or Peace-hill.\* The viaduct of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway crosses the battlefield, and many bones and stone-slab coffins, with swords and other weapons, were disinterred while the works were in progress. After the battle, the King, with "the Earl of Angus, the Lord Hamilton, with the Humes and Kers, went all that night to Linlithgow, and remained there in great merriness: but the King was very sad and dolorous."

This battle was fought in September 1526, and it was not till May 1528 that the king so cleverly escaped from Falkland. The sadness and dolour were on the side of the Douglases at Linlithgow on the night they turned bridle at Stirling after their fruitless pursuit of their lost prize.

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## CHAPTER V.

### JAMES V., HALY KIRK, AND THE REFORMATION.

JAMES V., now his own master, and in many respects worthy of being so, commenced a vigorous course of administration which soon restored order and security to the country. His own experience of the rule of his nobility prompted him to shield the people from oppression, and to raise them politically; and this, combined with his free and joyous nature, made him a popular favourite—"The King of the Commons." His actual reign, from 1528, when he escaped in his seventeenth year from Falkland, till his death at the same place in 1542, a period of fourteen years, is one of the most important and interesting periods in the history both of Europe and of Scotland. It is to be regretted, however, that in the stormy times which followed, the local records of the transactions of the

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\* There are many *Bas* hills or Dun-na-bases. *Bas* is Gaelic for *death*.

period have been mostly destroyed ; though some valuable fragments have been preserved.

Amongst these are some of the Minutes of the Burgh-courts, Treasurer's Accounts, and copies of various documents. The Court Book extends from 1529 pretty consecutively till 1534 ; there are a few dates in 1536, 7, 8, and 9 ; then from October 1, 1540, till May 23, 1543, it is nearly entire. These fragments have been gathered together and bound up in one volume, along with a very few leaves of 1563, 64, and subsequent dates. There occurs on a page containing a sett of the Common Lands, of date 1564, the following note, subscribed by the whole Council :—

*Die penultima Maii, 1564.* The whilk day this buke being producit in Counsal, it wes fundin that the marrow of it is revin out, as appears. And this we testify be our hand writts.

The history of the country explains sufficiently how this would be ; but it is doubtful whether the destruction would proceed from rival parties wishing to obliterate the remembrance of defeat, or from canny burgesses anxious to screen themselves from the consequences, by destroying the evidence of their own acts. Whichever way it was, they have managed to preserve most of what related to the material interests of the community.

From these records it would appear that the King was an annual resident in the Palace in the early part of his actual reign, the Lyon Herald, or Lion-king-of-arms, who would, from the nature of his office, be a constant attendant at Court wherever it might be for the time, appearing frequently as a member of the Town Council. As these notices throw some light both on the movements of the King, and upon the history of Sir David Lindsay, on whom the office of "Harauld to our sovourain Lord," as he styles himself, was about this time conferred, the dates of the various entries in which the Lyon Herald appears sitting are subjoined.\* Edinburgh, Stirling,

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\* 1529, Oct. 4, 15, Nov. 5; 1530, Aug. 25, Oct. 3; 1531, Oct. 2; 1532, June 18, Sept. 15; 1533, Oct. 6; 1534, Oct. 5; 1535, Oct. 5, 9; 1536, Oct. 2, 6; few dates preserved till 1540, in which year he does not appear; 1541, Oct. 7; 1542, Oct. 2, 11. There is very little preserved after May 23, 1543, till March 17, 1620, at which date the present series of Council Minute-Books commences. The general elections took place in October.

Linlithgow, and Falkland, appear to have been the principal royal residences at this time, as enumerated in Sir David's

## FAREWELL OF THE PAPINGO.

Adew Edinburgh, thou heich triumphand toun  
 Within whose boundis richt blythful have I bene,  
 Of trew merchandis, the rute of this regiou[n],  
 Most reddy to ressave court, king and queen ;  
 Thy policie, and justice may be sene,  
 Wer devotioun, wysedome, and honestie,  
 And credence, tint [lost], they may be found in the.

Adew fair Snawdoun [Stirling], with thy towris hie,  
 Thy chapill royall, park, and tabill round,  
 May, June, and July, wald I dwell in the,  
 War I ane man, to heir the bird-is sound ;  
 Quhilk doith agane thy royall rocke resound.  
 Adew Lithgow, whose palyce of plesance,  
 Micht be ane pattern, in Portugall or France,

Fare weill, Falkland, the forteress of Fyfe,  
 Thy polite park, under the Lowmond Law :  
 Some time in the, I led ane lustie lyfe,  
 The fallow deir, to them raik [run] on raw.  
 Court-men to cum to the, they stand greit aw,  
 Sayand, thy burgh bene, of all burrow-is baill, [worst]  
 Because, in the, they never gat gude aill.

The great improvements in the palace referred to in Chapter I., appear to have been made in anticipation of the King's marriage with the Princess Magdalene of France. These improvements consisted in the remodelling of the east and south sides of the Palace. On the east side the great Hall, called in the records the Lyon Chamber, a spacious apartment of about 90 feet in length by 30 in breadth, was raised on the foundations of an older structure. Whether the entrance on this side was then opened or whether it existed previously to this is not known. On the south side the walls of the Chapel were raised, and the five long narrow windows formed. The passage galleries, the square-headed mullioned windows of which form so prominent a feature of the inner court, were also laid-to, the older wall being still distinguishable inside of part of them, as well as inside of the entrance porch. The fine gateway at the head of the Kirkgate is also believed to be an erection of this date. It was ornamented over the archway with four carved panels, representing the collars and jewels of the orders of St Michael, the Golden Fleece,

and the Garter, orders of knighthood which were conferred upon King James by Francis, King of France; Charles V., Emperor of Germany; and Henry VIII., King of England. The fourth panel, it is said, was filled in with the collar and jewel of the order of the Thistle, the foundation of which order has been ascribed to James V.\* The elaborate and finely sculptured fountain in the Palace court is also believed to be an erection of this date; and the Cross-well of the town was in all probability first erected at this time.† The principal figure represents St Michael, and the other figures are supposed to be representative of his angels, as embodied in the clergy of Haly Kirk. The people were making fun of their religion, and the Reformation was well nigh ripe.

The Palace was now “translated” as Pitscottie phrases it,‡ and resplendent with painting and gold; and Lithgow as one of “the worthy and principal towns” was preparing also for the proper reception of the Queen. Poor Magdalen’s death delayed this event, but when James in 1539 brought Mary of Guise to her future dwelling, the Queen rewarded him for all his cost and labours by declaring that she “had never seen a more princely Palace.” The “players of Lythgow” were in request once more, and Sir David Lyndsay’s “Satyre of the Three Estaitis,” was one of the dainty dishes set before the Queen in January 1540. Of all the royal houses, that of Linlithgow, “the King’s great Palace,” as it is termed in a subsequent act of parliament, was the most esteemed as a

\* These Panels were about twenty years since very beautifully restored. They are not copies, but are very likely not far from the original designs. A shield with the arms of each of the princes is inserted within the collar. As the mottos of the various orders are carved in a style unreadable by the majority of visitors, the mottos, so far as the writer can ascertain them, are subjoined:—The motto of the Thistle, *NEMO ME IMPUNE LACESSIT*—*No one may meddle me with impunity*; of the Garter, *HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE*—*Evil be to him who evil thinks*; of the Golden Fleece, *PRÆTIUM NON VILE*—*No ignoble Reward*; of the Cockle, or, as commonly named, from the jewel attached, of St Michael, *IMMENSI EMOR EX OCEANI*—*I am brought from the boundless Ocean*.

† It appears from a minute of council of 1628, that the Cross-well was then standing out of repair “as ane deid monument.” It was repaired at that time, water being procured from the source by which it is still supplied, it having apparently been supplied originally from the same source as the fountain in the palace.

‡ It is from a misapprehension of this phrase, it may be presumed, that Pinkerton asserts that James V. changed the site of the palace.

residence by Mary of Guise. Within its walls she gave birth on the 7th of December 1542, to her ill-fated daughter Mary, who, by the death of her father, became Queen of Scots on the 13th of the same month.

In the year that James V. was born (1512) Martin Luther acquired his degree of D.D., and he published his ninety-five theses in opposition to Tetzel in 1517. In the year after James's emancipation (1529) the princes of Germany who supported Luther gave in their famous protest against the edict of Worms which had placed him under the ban of the empire. A new element in politics had been developed, more powerful than any heretofore known to James's predecessors, and he and his race were doomed to extinction in their futile attempts to suppress it. The Reformation had begun. It was here, probably, that Patrick Hamilton, the first martyr of the Scottish Reformation, received the elements of his education. His father, Sir Patrick Hamilton (an illegitimate son of the Lord Hamilton who helped to turn the scale in the contest between James II. and the Douglases) was appointed by James IV., Sheriff of Linlithgow and Captain of the castle of Blackness in 1498, and at the same time obtained a grant of the King's lands of Kincavel, about a mile and a half east from the town of Linlithgow. He owned, besides, the lands of Stanehouse, in Lanarkshire, and Patrick was, according to Professor Lorimer, born most probably at Glasgow.\* However this may be, the offices which his father held would necessitate his frequent residence at Kincavel, and if so, his sons would most probably be educated at the Burgh School. The Court Book opens only in 1529, but in one of the minutes of that year "William Hamiltoun in Kyncavil; Alex. Hamiltoun in the Grange; and George Hamiltoun in the Medop," are found sitting, as if such matter had special interest for them, on the assize, and amongst other business taking Mr Fynlaw Forest (the Rector it may be presumed) to task, for not keeping a "sufficiande grammariar" to assist him in the school. Patrick after studying at the "Scholis of Art and Jure" in Paris, where the writings of the reformers

\* See appendix to Professor Lorimer's *Life of Patrick Hamilton*, which contains some extracts from the Burgh Records above referred to; as well as the copy of the Chaplain's Bond which follows in the text.

were well known, returned to Scotland and had to flee to Germany in 1527, where he made the acquaintance and profited by the instructions of Luther, Melanthon, and the other reformed Doctors. Returning in 1528, and while residing at Kincavel, he is said to have been a zealous preacher in the neighbourhood. The King was yet in the keeping of the Douglasses, and Archbishop Beaton kept watch in St Andrews over the interests of the Church, which were endangered by widely spread importations of Bibles and other heretical books; and now that to the books were to be added preachers, and these men of rank and influence, a decided step was necessary to arrest the progress of heresy: and so Patrick Hamilton was sent for to a conference at St Andrews, and was there tried, condemned, and burnt, on the last day of February 1528. Sir James Hamilton, Patrick's eldest brother, who now filled his father's offices—(the father perished in the affray in the High Street of Edinburgh called "cleanse the causeway" in 1520)—had assembled a force to rescue his brother, but was prevented by stress of weather from crossing the Firth of Forth until it was too late; so the Sheriff and his men had to return, and by-and-bye had to destroy, it may be, even their own record of the expedition.

The next martyr of the Scottish Reformation on record was Henry Forrest, a young Benedictine monk of St Andrews, and a native of Linlithgow. One family of Forrests about this time seem to have been proprietors of Pardovan, which adjoins Kincavel; and this Henry may have been a son of that Laird of Pardovan to whom Lennox surrendered at Linlithgow-bridge. However this may be, it is not unlikely that, being about the same age and belonging to the same place as Hamilton, an intimacy and sympathy would exist between them. He is said to have made some indignant remarks on Hamilton's execution, and he shared the same fate, the crime of which he was accused being that he possessed a New Testament in English.

From 1528 to 1534 the King appeared to lean towards the side of the Reformation. The dissoluteness of the higher clergy was fitly matched by the ignorance and worthlessness of the priests and monks, and a change of some kind was inevitable. There is very distinct evidence of an attempt, in

which Sir James Hamilton of Finnart, and Sir James Hamilton of Kincavel, are found taking part, at a sort of reformation in church matters here, by the Town Council, as may be seen in the extracts from the minutes given in the appendix to Professor Lorimer's work. The sort of morality expected from the ordinary priests is very well shown in the terms of a Chaplain's Bond, the original of which has been preserved in the Burgh Charter-chest.

Til al and sundrie quhais knawledge thir present lettres sal to cum, Patric Brone, chapellane, gretting in the Salvior of all. Yhour universite [you all] sal knew me to be oblist and be thir present lettres, in the faith of my body, leleli and treuli oblliss me til honorable and worshipful men, the baileyheis and communite of the burgh of Linlithgwy for thare suppli and favoure done to me thankfulli, that I sal be lele and trew to tham, obedient and inclinand to thare ordinance in all lefful things and honest, tuiching the service of God and haly kirk. In manere as eftir followis. In the first, I oblliss me to do divine service at the altar of Corpus Christi, foundat in the parisch kirk of Llithgow be a reverend man of worthie memore, quhilis Maister William of Foulis, archedene of Sanct Andrewis, eftir the tenor of his chartir of fundation made tharupon, as I will ansere in that actione before the heeast Juge. Alsa I oblliss me that I sal mak ministracion at my cunning and knawledge in the parisch kirk and in the quere of the said burgh in divine service, sic as afore used dayli and continualy in matutine, mess. evynsang, lladymes, salve, and processione, gif the said baileyheis and counsale thinkis expedient that continuale service be made, and uthirquhiles on festivale dayes and haly dayes, as the caiss requer. And attour I oblliss me that I sal kepe and conserve all the graith and reparatioun of the said altare, bukis, chalice, chesabill, albis, towallis, and the apparaling of tham to the profet of the said altare. And at I sal not sell, wedset, nor anale ony part of the graith of the said altare, for na mistere may happyn me in ony tyme to cum, and gif I do the contrare in ony thing I renunce my said service, to be quite thereof in al tymes to cum. Alsa I oblliss me be thir presents that I sal govern my person in honeste and be of honest conversation in mete and drink, lying and rising, and at I sal not use unressonable excess, nor continual concubine. And gif me happyne to do the contrare, I sal, at the ordinance and consale of the said baileyheis and communite desist and amend, under payne of deprivacion fra my said service; and in tymes to cum I sal leyr diligentli to rede and sing in augmentation to Godd's service and for pleasance of the said baileyheis and communite. And till all thir thingis before writin lelei and treuli to be kept in manere and fourme, the haly evangell twichit, I have gevyn a bodily aith in presence of the baileyheis and communite of the said burgh. And for the mare sikernes, I have fundyn thir worthi person borrowis and pleges for me that the said condicione sal be keptit. That is to say, Henry of Livingstone of Middlebenny, Walter of Hamilton, William of Saltone, Thomas of Cowers, William Brone my fadyr, and John Brone my brodir. In witnes of the quhilk thing the said persons in takenyng of thare borowyng has set to thare selis the xxiiii day of the moneth of Februare, the yhere of our Lord Im foure hundir fifti and fyve yheres.

(Seal)

(Seal)

(Seal)

(Seal)

(Seal)

(Seal)

The King wavered long, but his French connections, his aversion to English dictation, and some say his prodigality, which made him for a while a pensioner of the Bishops, at length turned the scale, and an inquisition into men's religious opinions commenced in 1534, under the direction of Sir James Hamilton of Fynnart. Sir James Hamilton, the Sheriff, now fled to England, and many were burnt, and so, apparently, have been the local records of this period. Sir John Borthwick was most probably the next Sheriff of Linlithgow.\* Cardinal Beaton succeeded in 1539 to the primacy, and, high in influence with the King, he made use of his position to recommence the persecution of the reformers. In the grand meeting of Bishops and Nobles which he called at St Andrews, after his appointment as Legate, he denounced some of the principal reformers, and in particular, Sir John Borthwick, as one of the most industrious of them all. Sir John had to flee like his predecessor. He was employed by Henry VIII. in a mission to the Protestant princes of Germany, but returned to his native country to share in the triumph of the Reformation. The state of the King's mind about this time was a most unenviable one, his nature being one for which such work as Beaton, the "cruel cardinal," urged him to authorise, was most unfitted. After the execution of Sir James Hamilton of Finnart—who was accused of conspiring against the King's life while he was in the keeping of the Douglases, at Holyrood, by attempting to murder him in bed ; and at Linlithgow, by shooting at him from the palace and from the steeple—the King was troubled with frightful visions. One of these is related by Knox in his *History of the Reformation* as occurring here.

How terrible a Vision the said Prince saw lying in *Linlithgow* that Night that *Thomas Scot* Justice-Clerk died in *Edinburgh*, Men of good Credit can yet report : For afraid at Midnight, or after, he called aloud for torches, and raised all that lay beside him in the Palace, and told that *Thomas Scot* was dead ; for he had been at him with a Company of Devils, and had said unto him these Words, *O wo to the Day that ever I knew thee or thy Service ; for serving of thee, against God, against his Servants, and against Justice, I am adjudged to endless Torment.*

\* He was a son of William, third Lord Borthwick. He is called "Provost of Linlithgow," possibly a misprint for Sheriff, in one account of Cardinal Beaton's denunciation of him. He was captain of the King's French Guard.

Subject to influences such as the above circumstances may indicate, not forgetting the known sentiments and frequent intercourse of Sir David Lindsay, there seems little doubt that the people of the place were mostly inclined towards the Reformation; but this is more evident in the affair of the Provostship. It would appear that on the flight of Borthwick, influence was successfully made with the King to allow the burgesses to elect a Provost, with the powers of Sheriff within burgh, for themselves. Henry Forrest, through whose influence principally the grant or charter was obtained, was unanimously chosen as the first Provost of the burgh on the 1st day of October 1540. He was re-elected on the 23d of September 1541, there being eighty-eight burgesses present. This meeting would appear to have been got up as a special demonstration in anticipation of what was to follow, as the meeting does not appear to have proceeded to the usual election of bailies, officers, and council. On the 3d of October, the usual time for the election, the Queen-Dowager's husband, Lord Methven, Sheriff-principal of the sheriffdom, appears with a missive letter from the King, commanding the bailies, council, and community to appoint a person "abil to be thankfull and appliabill" . . . "twching sic things as may happen to occur" . . . "and that ye remove Henry Forrest now Provost out of the said office." Forrest was accordingly removed, and Robert Wutherspoon was chosen in his place, by an assize of twenty-eight persons "chosin for chusing" him and the other officials. After the election and swearing in of the new council on the 7th, the council proceeds to business. Their first Act is curious; and it is scarcely less curious to find Sir David Lindsay sitting at the enacting of it:—

The said day it is statuted and ordaint be the provost, baillies, and counsele of this burgh of Linlithgw, for the weill fair of this burgh, That thay and all uther honest persones thairof, observe and keep all-sounng, evinsang, and mess, in the kirk; sayand and makand thair devotion to God Almighty and his Modir the blissit virgin Marie; beseckand thame for the common weill of this burgh, whilk be thair grace mot incress.

Other Acts of this worthy council are to to the effect, that, in all time coming, the old council should choose the new; that the new council with the deacons of crafts should choose the provost, bailies, and officers; and that no councillor should divulge what passed in council. Alexander Stewart, brother

to Lord Methven, appears on the 2d of October of the year following, 1542, with another letter commanding the council and community to re-elect Robert Wutherspun, and to choose for bailies and officers “qualifeit substantius persones, and of knawleg.”\* A third letter of the King’s was presented by “Henry Foulis, sheriff in that part”—“chargeand the provost and baillies to obey the samin; whilk thay did after the nateur of ye samyn; and ye provost and baillies requirit the copy of the said letter.” This was presented on the 6th December, and the nature of it can only be conjectured; and dark enough conjectures there were regarding the King’s secret designs at this time: but these, whatever they might be, were all extinguished by his death on the 13th of the same month. Forrest reappears, as we learn only incidentally from one of the Treasurer’s annual accounts, as Provost in 1543. There is no doubt that a different construction might be put upon this interference of the King. In 1535 an act was passed ordaining that “no outland man,” that is, no man who did not dwell within burgh, should be Provost of a burgh, on account that such persons made use of the office “for thare aine particular weill in consuming the commoun guids.” If Forrest was a landed proprietor in the neighbourhood, he might come within the description of an “outland man,” but his thorough popularity seems inconsistent with the notion that he used his office in such a way, although it may be insinuated in a phrase contained in the letter delivered by Alex. Stewart—“to performing thair offices sua that of necessitie thay sall not uss the comon gud to thair awn particular offecis.” If,—recollecting who was the King’s right hand man at this time—for “offices” we read “opinions” it may probably represent the true state of matters.

The eastern part or Choir of the Church, it is generally believed, is of later origin than the western part or Chancel and Transepts, which have already been alluded to as having been in all probability built in the reign of James III. The work-

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\* The pretexts for stealing power are ever the same. An act of Parliament of 1469, in the minority of James III., is to the same effect, that the old councils should choose the new, “on account of great trouble and contention yearly by common simple persons.”

manship of the chancel is excellent, that of the choir comparatively poor. The tracery of the windows of the choir, also partakes more of the "flamboyant" style—that is, the openings are flame or pear-shaped, and large-sized for the display of painted glass. The chancel, too, from the uniformity of the workmanship and the masterly design, seems a work built at once to plan; while the erection of the choir, if the notices in the burgh-book refer to it, was a work spread over many years. The carvings on the shields in the aisles of the choir accord with the emblematising mood prevailing in the times of James V. Those still discernible are, on the north side, a Fleur-de-lis, the Cross and Crown, and a Heart with Hands and Feet, the two latter well-known emblems; on the south side the only one left is the Scottish Lion on a crowned shield. The shields are set in round masses of foliage, instead of being enclosed in the rings which form the bosses of the chancel. There is some patching of the arches of the steeple over the west entrance, in inferior work, possibly of the same age as the masonry of the choir. It is not improbable that the west doorway, and the window above, owe their present details to the French or other continental artists employed by James V. on the Palace. A third era in the architectural history of the church, is the formation of the three-sided Apse at the east end, with its three tall windows. There is a similar apse at Stirling, and both are usually referred to the time of Cardinal Beaton; and there is little doubt that the apse here is the latest addition to or alteration of the building previous to the Reformation. Such works were losing their interest now. Powerful families took no pride in having their arms put up, and emblems were going out of fashion, and so the builder has placed his compass and square upon the boss. The Roof of the Nave, both in choir and chancel, was of open timber.

It may be necessary to explain that the community of the Burgh had the charge of the Church, both as to the appointment of the chaplains or priests, who were often the sons of townsmen; and as to the upholding of the fabric. The patronage of some of the altarages was however retained by the founders. It was usual that the clergy upheld the choir, but practically the whole building came under the manage-

ment of the Town Council. The Priory of St Andrews, which was superior of most of the houses on the north side of the street east from the Cross, and held these as part of their Regality on this side of the Forth, compounded with the community for an annual payment of 205 merks for the upholding of the choir.\* The Council drew, also, the “Procraftis of the kyrk,” being the sums payable by the Crafts or Trades for maintaining their altars, and the fines of the craftsmen—at least these do not appear under any other heading; Legacies, Lare Siller [grave dues], and Church-offerings. Some of the altarages were richly endowed with “annual rents” payable out of various lands and tenements, to the number (including those payable for the maintenance of the lights or wax tapers used on St Michael’s or the High altar, and at the celebration of the Sacrament or High Mass) of 228. The Court-book contains contracts with masons for the carrying on of the building, one of which follows:—

*Decimo-sexto die mensis Maii, Anno Domini, M. Vmo. XXXII.*

Quo die, Thomas Franch maister masoune, obliis hime be the faith and treuth off his body, to the bailzie, counsale, and communitie of Linlithgw that he sall leiff his twa sonnes to werk at the kyrk werk of Lithgw, to the endyne of the gavill of the stane werk with a coursse of the batallyne round about. And the said Thomas sall cum within a xiiij dais eftir Whitsunday to the kyrk werk of Lithgw, and sall byde with thame aco xiiij dais to the endyne of the kyrk werk. And alsua the said Thomas maister masoune sall be payt his fie for the xiiij dais that he is away, and for the xiiij dais that he cumis and werks, with his sonnes payment to be payt sic like as they had forrow, and xx s to be gene to thame for thair drynk silvyr. Subscriptit with the said Thomas Franchis hand, day, [year], moneth, and plass, forsaid.

THOMAS FRANCH, manu propria.

There are engagements for a year, with Patrick Franch in 1528, and with Thomas in 1530; and there are references to “Sanct Michaelis werk” as in progress, at least as regards the woodwork, in the fragments of 1536.

There is distinct evidence in the Court-book, from records of infections taken by the priests on lands and tenements, and other notices, that there were, at the least, thirteen chaplains or priests in the church, and there may have been

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\* The original indenture of this or some other such agreement exists, in a sorely dilapidated state, in the town’s possession.

even a greater number. Besides the High Altar, there were the following :—

Sancte Trinitatis—(of the Holy Trinity)

Sancte Crucis—(of the Holy Cross, or Rood)

Corporis Christi—(of the Body of Christ)—founded by William of Foulis, Archdeacon of St Andrews.

Sancti Cruoris—(of the Holy Blood)

Sancte Beate Marie Virginis—("Our Lady" altar)

Sancti Salvatoris—(of the Holy Saviour, or St Saviour's)

Sancti Johannis Baptiste—(of St John the Baptist)

Sancti Johannis Evangeliste—(of St John the Evangelist)

Sancti Petri—(St Peter's)

Sancti Andree—(St Andrew's)

Sancte Beate Maria Virginis—(of the Blessed Mary. The other altar to Mary was founded by the burgh; this and the next two by Robert Begys.)

Sancte Brigide—(St Bryde's)

Sancte Anne—(St Anne's)

Sancte Katherine Virginis—(St Katherine's)

Sancti Niniani—(St Ninian's)

Sancti Eligii—(of St Eloy, the patron saint of the Hammermen. St Eloy had been a Goldsmith, and hence it was, it may be presumed, that he was also a favourite saint for ladies to swear by.)

Sanctorum Crispinii et Crispiniani—(St Crispin's)

Sancti Stephani—(St Stephen's—these two were upheld by the Shoemakers)

Sancti Cutberti—(St Cuthbert's—upheld by the Coopers)

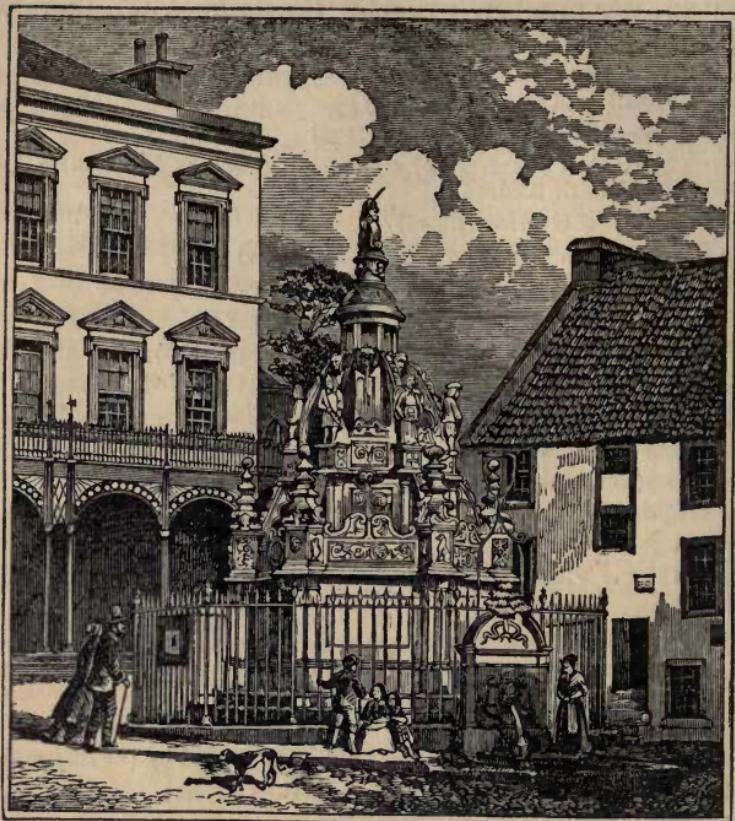
Sancti Nicholai—(St Nicholas')

Sancte Sithe—(St Syth's)

Sancti Antionii—(St Anthony's)

Omnium Sanctorum—(All-Saints')

Twenty-four in all, so far as can be learned; and there may have been more, as it is only from solitary and incidental notices that several of these have been ascertained. With at least thirteen priests in the church, and possibly as many friars in the friary, the town, with a population which can scarcely be estimated as above three thousand, must have been sufficiently priest-ridden.



Cross Well.

## CHAPTER VI.

### THE TWO MARYS, REGENT MORAY, AND JAMES VI.

IT is very difficult to say whether Linlithgow, which, hitherto, had ranked as one of the “worthy and principal towns,” had decreased in absolute wealth and population, though it very likely had in comparative consequence, previous to this time; but it is certain that it emerged from the troubles of the Reformation era in a poor plight in both respects. For this we have the testimony of King James VI., who describes it in one of his charters as having “fallen off very much,” and

as having been “formerly one of the principal Burghs of the kingdom.”

After the death of James V., the place of the infant Queen’s residence was fixed by Parliament to be either in the Palace here or at Stirling, as the Queen-Dowager might prefer; and she accordingly remained here for a few months, until Beaton and his party, with a force of ten thousand men, carried off the Queen and her mother to Stirling. Beaton had been defeated in his attempt to seize the regency, and had been confined in Blackness castle in the beginning of the year, and he had now his revenge on the Hamiltons and their supporters, who mustered strong in the town and neighbourhood. Sir David Lindsay, in his “Tragedie of the Cardinall,” makes Beaton relate the story:—

The governour purposing to subdew,  
I raisit ane oyst of mony bald barroun,  
And maid ane raid, whilk Lithgow yet may rew ;  
For we destroyit ane myle about the toun,  
For that I got mony black malisoun :  
Yet, contrair the governouris intent,  
With our young princess, we to Striveling went.

In 1544, the rough wooing of Henry VIII., who sent a fleet into the Firth of Forth with an army, compelled Beaton and Arran, who were now reconciled, to retreat hither from Edinburgh with Huntly, Argyle, and the rest of the lords; and in the following year they held meetings of Parliament in the Palace in September, October, and December. It was this Parliament, according to the *Diurnal of Occurrents*, to which the nobles flocked “for land,” that is, for a share of the forfeited lands. Beaton was not long in power till he recommenced a persecution of the reformers, which was carried on until he was himself murdered in his own castle of St Andrews in 1546. Of the doings in the busy years that follow till 1559,—the war with England, and the contests of the Reformers with the Queen-Regent supported by her party and her French auxiliaries,—there is of local interest on record the holding of a Provincial Council here in 1552 for the purpose of devising measures to appease the popular outcry against the clergy; and the burning of the shipping at Blackness, by Lord Clynton, Admiral of the English fleet. There is a letter with the signature of the Queen-Regent of date 1557,

preserved in the Charter-chest, exempting the burgh from sending their quota of men to the army at Fala-muir, for payment of £100—one of the schemes for raising money sometimes adopted by the princes of the time; and there is one solitary act or decision of the Burgh-court, which has been carefully preserved and printed, as a sort of fishers' charter:—

*Curia Burgi de Linlichtgow, tenta ibidem coram Jacobo Denniston  
præposito, Jacobo Rae et Magistro Bartholomew Kellie, Ballivis  
ejusdem nono die mensis Septembris Anno Domini 1552.*

**NOMINA ASSIZE**—Robt. Wetherspone, Henry Forrest, Peter Newlands, Rob. Ross, William Knolles, Alexr. Roust, John Thomson, Robert Jamie, William Eiston, Rob. Reddine, John Gibbiesone.

THE quhilke day comperit in judgement, Thomas Smyth, and persuit and followit Simon Callrigg, Robert Johnstone, John Henderson, John Loure, Als. Perkie, Willie Stakks, John Gibson, Allan Bishop,

For the wronguse fishing of the locht of Linlightgow, pertaining to him in tack and assedation, as he alleadeged.

Quhilks persons present deneyed the wrang; therefore alleadgand the same hes bein in use, that the inhabitants within this brugh hes fishin the louch past memory of men, without stop, soe fare as they might wade with ane guad, and submitted them to the knowledge of the foresaid Assize.

Quhilke furth of [court] removant, in returnand again be the fore speaker Henrie Forrest Chancellar thereof, fand and determinit all in ane voice, that the saids persons hes done nae wrang in the fishing of the said louch, because it hes bein in use that the inhabitants within the said burgh hes fishit the said louch in all time by past, sae fare as they might waid with ane guad; and therefor exoneris them of the said wrang.

It was in 1558 that the reforming lords separated themselves from the Romish Church and took the name of the Lords of the Congregation. In 1559 they took their famous march from Perth, destroying monasteries and friaries, and clearing away the altars and images from the churches. It was on the 29th of June they passed through here. The only image they have spared about the church is that of St Michael, which yet faces to the Kirkgate. A statue of a saint is still occasionally found in the floor of a cellar in the town, and a bit of an altar-piece, in rude bas-relief, is preserved in one of the transepts of the Church. It was got inside of the Church, when digging a grave; and, from the style of the sculpture and ornament, is probably more ancient than the present edifice. Some of the panels of the old stone pulpit which was attached to one of the great pillars at the east end of the

chancel, may still be seen built into the lower part of the north-west window of the church. The pulpit was removed when the church was last repaired. The friary seems to have been entirely demolished by the Reformers. It might be previously in decay, as it appears, by a lease of their lands in 1545, that a prior and three brethren were then the whole of its occupants.

On the 6th November, in consequence of their defeat by the Queen's French forces from Leith, the Lords of the Congregation had to retreat from Edinburgh to this place, where "they remained in consultation and preparing for the wars, and will set up a coin, saying they shall coyne a good part of their plate for maintenance of the word of God, and the wealth of Scotland."\* One of the traditions regarding the Square Tower near the railway station, is, that it was "the mint of Scotland," and it is quite possible that it may have been used for the purpose of a mint at this time. The French troops were here in March following, and on the way back from Glasgow "ran the foray about be the space of sax myles, and brocht in all the cattle, horss, and uther geir that mycht be gottin thair, to the great destruction of the country."† The Lords of the Congregation triumphed, however, and the "Reformation Parliament," as it is called, was held in Edinburgh, in 1560.

Queen Mary arrived from France in the year following. There is little trace of her residence in the Palace farther than in passing visits. It was on one of these occasions she was met on the way to Edinburgh, and carried off by Bothwell. The Lords were up again in array against the Queen, and the Hamiltons were advancing to her aid, and had arrived here when the news of the defeat at Carbery reached them. The only other event in the history of Mary, in connection with the neighbourhood, was her first halt, after her escape from Lochleven castle, at Niddry, a square tower, then belonging to the Setons, of which the traveller from Edinburgh by the railway catches a glimpse, to his right hand, before entering the tunnel at Winchburgh.

Of the very few acts of the Burgh-court preserved, one in

\* *Intelligence from Scotland.—Appendix to Tytler's History.*

† *Diurnal of Occurrents.*

1564, when order was thought to have been restored, is very significant—"that thair actis in all time cuming be deullie observit, preservit, and not dispensand with the same by the aviss of the haill counsall." Order does not seem to have prevailed very long, however, as the court is found, shortly after, ordering the town to be kept, night and day, by watch and ward. In 1565 they are found arranging for the slating of the church, which had been previously covered with lead—a considerable portion of the lead having probably been taken away for the manufacture of bullets. Chartist will be glad to learn that one of their six points was then in operation, the payment of a member of Parliament for the burgh being at that time 8s. a-day. There are some appointments of persons to draw the revenues of altars, so as to secure these for the common good, by redispositions. These proceedings are confirmed by the charter of James VI. of 1591; and Ludovic, Earl of Lennox, Commendator of St Andrews, and Lord St John, are found in other documents disponing the annual-rents due to the priory and the preceptory, as well as their Bailleries within burgh, to the community.\* The Burgh-mills came also into the burgh's possession in 1560, by disposition of Jean Livingston, the last prioress of Manuel convent. Dame Jeane and Dame Margaret Cokburne sign this deed, each "with my hand at the pen led by the notar."

Ninian Winzet, the schoolmaster of the burgh for the ten years from 1551 till 1561, deserves mention. He seems to have been much aggrieved by his dismissal from the grammar school of "that my kyndly toun;" and he blames the preacher "Dene Patrik Kinloquhy," and the Superintendent of the district, Spottiswood, for his dismissal. He appears to have been a conscientious adherent of the Romish church, and a clever man, fond of argumentation. He devoted himself afterwards to publishing controversial tracts, some of them addressed to John Knox, but had very soon to leave the

\* The annual-rents payable to the altars were in some cases, if not in all, re-disponed by the community to the owners of the lands and tenements out of which they were payable. To one of these charters, of date 1598, the old great seal of the burgh is still appended. The seal differs slightly from the present great seal, the side on which St Michael appears being more elegant, and the other side less so.

country, and he ultimately got the appointment of Abbot of St James's, the Scots convent, at Ratisbon.\*

After the battle of Langside, the houses of the Hamiltons were plundered, and thirteen carts laden with valuables and furniture, from Hamilton, Draffen, and Kinneil, passed through to Edinburgh; some of the bulky articles being sold by the way at the Cross. The vigorous rule of "the good Regent," Moray, seemed to render the success of the opposite, or Queen's party, hopeless, and several attempts at his assassination were made. At length the enterprise of Hamilton of Bothwell-haugh proved successful.† The Regent was proceeding from Stirling to Edinburgh, and had lodged on the night of the 19th January 1570, either in the Palace, or in the house of Charles Drummond, the Provost. It is said that he was warned of Hamilton's being in the town, and of his intention; and that the Regent declined giving orders for Hamilton's seizure, but agreed to partially retrace his steps, and make a circuit by the back of the town instead of proceeding eastward through the street, of course expecting that Hamilton (who must have got private information of his change of plan) would have been lying in that part of the town which he had not already passed through. Leaving Drummond's house, he had to pass the house almost next door, where Hamilton was concealed, when he was shot through the belly, the ball afterwards killing the horse of Arthur Douglas who rode beside him. Hamilton, who had a swift horse ready, and the lintel of the garden-door taken off, instantly decamped, hotly pursued by the Regent's attendants. The Regent died at eleven o'clock the same night in the Palace. The house from which the Regent was shot, according to the *Diurnal*, "incontinent thairefter wes allutterlie burnt with fyre." It is said to have been the house of Archbishop Hamilton. The new County-Court Buildings and the Prison now occupy the ground where

\* See Irving's *Lives of Scottish Writers*.

† The usual story regarding the assassination of the Regent, is that Hamilton did it out of personal revenge, because Bellenden, to whom his wife's property of Woodhouslee had been granted, had turned her out naked on a cold winter night amongst the Pentland hills, where she went mad. This might have been believed had Hamilton shot Bellenden. The story is in all probability a mere afterthought, set up to excuse the deed, as it is certain that the assassination was the result of a conspiracy of the Queen's party.

Drummond's house and that of the Archbishop stood. The spot where the Regent was shot is a few yards from the west end of the railing. When the old houses on the site were taken down, one of them revealed in its structure a fine large hall with a round arch at one end, somewhat like that in the large hall of the Palace.

Linlithgow seems to have been the head-quarters of the Queen's party about this time, and it suffered in consequence; Lennox and the English army, in revenge of the Regent's death, burning the houses of the Queen's adherents in the town and neighbourhood—Pardovan, Binny, Kincavel, Niddry, Livingston, and Kinneil—scarce leaving them a stone house habitable. When the English troops left the country, they carried off with them to Berwick, Charles Drummond, as well as the Provost of Haddington, because they would not give pledges to prevent the assembling of the Hamiltons and their party in their respective towns. The towns were neither large nor properly walled, so that it would have been impossible for them to have made such pledges good.

The fortunes of Blackness castle in the succeeding few years are very varied and interesting. It changed hands several times. Alexander Stewart, the Governor, betrayed it to Queen Mary's party for 800 crowns, because as he said "the Regent and the King's Lords would not give him anything to keep it with." The most romantic story in connection with it is the betrayal of Sir James Kirkaldy by his wife, in 1573, to the Regent Morton. Sir James had returned from France with 50,000 double-ducats—arrears of the Queen's dowry—to help the cause, and landing at Blackness, had been made prisoner by the keeper of the castle, who had gone over to the other side. While in prison he had managed to gain over the men, and kept the castle. His wife came to visit him, and induced him to accompany her for a short way when leaving, when he was seized by Captain Lambie, at this time keeper of Linlithgow Palace, and sent next day to Edinburgh. He shortly after made his escape, and on the eighth morning thereafter his wife was found lying strangled in her bedroom! As some accounts endow Blackness about this time with fabulous docks and quays, another story regarding it may not be out of place. It is from the Burgh-court book:—

" 1540, 17. January. Comperit Charles Denniston, captane of the hous and strength of Blakness, under our Soveraine lord, the Kingis Grace, and hevelly manit and complenit upon the Baillies of the Burgh forsaid, That tha suld have rasit ane havy and aggravous slander upone him, sayand he suld injurouslie have skatitt, tollit, and wrangouslie tane certane hundirs heryng fra fyve bots or thairby that came to the said Blakness pier with heryng."

The bailies, after clearing themselves, discovered the real offender in John Barbour, who was condemned to sit down in the court on his knees and say "*Tongue, ye lied;*" and to repeat the same performance at the Cross on the next market-day.

With James VI. the Palace was a favourite abode, and two meetings of Parliament were held here in his reign, in 1585 and 1593. It was rather for ease, however, than business that the King liked Linlithgow. The practice of keeping court-fools may have prevailed down to this reign; but the "familiar servitors" of our Scotch kings seem to have been a superior class, although popularly identified with them. A favourite of King James's is said to have been Rob Gibb, and if so, the occupation seems to have been hereditary, as a Robert Gib, the King's familiar servitor, appears in 1526 as receiving a grant of lands in Ross-shire. It is told by Scott that the King one day made Rob take his place in his own royal chair, and set the courtiers to pay their obeisance and prefer their requests to him. Rob, however, repelled them all "as a set of unmercifully greedy sycophants, who followed their worthy King only to see what they could make of him. 'Get ye hence, ye covetous selfish loons,' he exclaimed, 'and bring to me my own dear and trusty servant Rob Gibb, that I may honour the only one of my court that serves me for stark love and kindness.' It would not have been unlike King Jamie to have answered, 'that he was but a fool and knew no better.'" The walls of a large house, known as Rob Gibb's castle, still remain on the banks of the Avon, at Carriber.\*

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\* "Rob Gib's contract" became a proverbial saying, and, it is said, a favourite motto for a love-token. An old ring which, however, is probably much more modern than Rob's time, with this motto engraved inside, was dug up near the palace a few years since.

If Scott be correct in placing (in his *Provincial Antiquities*) a Rob Gib in the time of James VI., he would, in all probability, be a descendant of the Rob Gib who was "familiar servitor" of James V.—at least this may be inferred from

It would appear that in the midst of the confusion of the strife between King's men and Queen's men, the preservation of the royal property had been comparatively neglected, and the dwellers near the loch had been encroaching—hence the following letter to the magistrates :—

REX. Provost and baillies of our burgh of Linlytgow we grete you weill Fforsamekill as we and our predecessors hes bein accustomat to have our horses wateritt besyde our Paleice be the watter yett in the Kirkgait be ane ampill passage swa that they mycht pace and repace by utheris without impediment, Nochtwtstanding being informit That sum inhabitantis in that our burgh pretendand richt to the tenementis and ruids adjacent to our said loch his not onlie stoppit the passage of our saids horses be including the samyn be dyikis Bot also in the late drouths of somer extendit the bounds and limitis of thair tenementis far within owr said loch to the grait preuidice of our orchardis and yeardis adjacent to our said Paleice be staying the samin to flow owr the auld bounds theirof and causing the samyn in respect of your restreayning to owrflow our Peill and orchardis of our said Paleice Geving us thairby to mervell of you, yeur slothfullnes thairin and owrsicht in staying thame, Quha altogidar sould have Respectit us In that behalf It is thairfor our will and we expreslie comand you That upone the sicht heirof ye stay all fardir building of the samyn dyikis and destroy and cast downe all that ar allreddie biggit within the bounds of the flowing of our said Loch except that dyik biggit be Nicholl Bell ffor restreayning of the passage frome our said Peill, as ye and ilk ane of you will answer to us upon your officeis and obedience and will discharge yourself theirof Whairanent thir presentis sall be your warrand Subscriptit with our hand at our Castell of Sterling the xvii day of August 1599 Sic subscrib. JAMES R.\*

In another letter the King complains of the same grievance as hindering the washing of his horses, as well as obstructing the

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the following particulars gathered from an old Notary's protocol-book. In 1541 Robert Gyb is infest in eight bovates of the lands of Kincavel ; in the same year he is constituted heir (legitimum indubitatum, etc.) of Robert Carriber of that ilk ; and in 1567 there appears a James Gyb of Carriber. From the same source it appears that the Gibs owned the lands of Birkenshaw in the Barony of Ogilface ; and in a record of 1539 Rob is styled "Robertus Gyb de Ogilface." The following note from Mr. Robertson is interesting,—"Rob Gib appears in Queen Mary's reign after she came to Scotland in 1561. He may have lived into King James VI.'s reign, though I do not remember at this moment to have met with him. He does not seem to have been 'court-fool,' but what was called 'stirrup man,'—one, I presume, who held the King's stirrups while he mounted on horseback." There was a John Gib, a valet to James VI. He appears in an act of Parliament (1592) confirming some grant to him.

\* The whole of the land in and around the town and loch appears to have been at one time royal property. These possessions were considerably diminished by the time of James VI., but still included most of the land in the immediate vicinity of the Palace. The following is a translation of part of an Act of Parliament fixing the dowry of the Queen of James II., of which the Palace and lands here formed part :—"Our Mansion or Palace beside the loch, with the

inhabitants from passing along the shore of the loch for the purpose of washing their clothes; and he commands the magistrates to hinder all encroachment beyond what was wont to be cultivated, “ notwithstanding of whatsumevir letters purchest or to be purchest at our hand.” It would appear, further, that the inhabitants had been in the habit, before Nicol Bell’s dyke was built (at the Vennel, it may be presumed), of bleaching their clothes in the Peel.

The Livingstons, who had been favourites with Mary of Guise, and one of whom was selected—in her thoroughly French fancy—as one of the four Marys who were to be the companions of their little mistress, Queen Mary, were also favourites with James VI., who in 1600 conferred the title of Earl of Linlithgow upon Alexander, Lord Livingston. His Lordship was one of the nobles to whom the education of the Princes and Princesses was committed—the Princess Elizabeth, who afterwards married the King of Bohemia, being consigned to his care. The great Palace of Hiedelberg, which was the future residence of this princess, is said to have been indebted to her for the marked resemblance it bears to the palace here.

The accession of James to the throne of England, in 1603, closed in great measure the connection of Linlithgow with royalty; and the Earl of Linlithgow appears to have been left occupant of the palace. The north side which for two years previous had been in a perilous state, “fell in,” leaving the walls standing, between three and four of the morning of 6th

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Loch and fishings of the same; and all and whole the Great-Customs and Burgh-Rent of our Burgh of Linlithgow, with the office of Sheriff of the same; and all and whole our Lands under-written, to wit:—Kyncavil, Drumcross; all and whole our acres at the east and west ends of said Burgh, with the Sanctuary crofts, Bonytone, the Lochside, Kyngsffelde, with the annual rents of the Orchard croft, and of the Fethel-croft.”

**FETHEL CROFT.**—The name of this piece of the royal grounds, after passing through the intermediate stage of “Fidilcroft,” has now been changed into “the Fiddler’s Croft.” This was probably the croft or piece of land for growing Broom, once rather an important article of food for cattle. The actual “keepers” of the Palace and grounds, long ago, were usually inhabitants of the town, and their payment appears, from the notes in the *Spottiswoode Miscellany*, to have been £50 a year. For this they were bound to keep the grounds, gardens, orchards, &c., in order, and, as appears in the grant to Andrew Ferrier (1567), they were commanded and charged “to labour and manure certain faulds of brume within the said Pealis [grounds], for holding and pasturing of our souveraines meiris thairintill.” The word is probably the old English *Battil* or *beitle*, “fertile,” allied to the old Norse *beit*, a pasture.

September 1607; and the inner wall threatened to fall, also, and to destroy the fountain.\* The Palace must have been in this condition at the date of the King's visit to Scotland in 1617; when he gave orders for the rebuilding of the north side. There is no picture or record extant from which the style of the old building can be ascertained. The grand entrance to the Lyon Chamber recently re-opened seems to have been shut up at this time. The inhabitants of the burgh got up a great display on the occasion of the King's visit, the most notable part of which was the salutation at the gate, by the schoolmaster of the burgh, who, from the interior of a plaster figure, delivered to his majesty an address commencing:—

“ Thrice royal sir, here do I you beseech,  
 Who art a lion, to hear a lion's speech ;  
 A miracle ! for since the days of Aesop,  
 No lion, till those days, a voice dared raise up  
 To such a majesty ! Then, King of men,  
 The King of beasts speaks to thee from his den,  
 Who, though he now enclosed be in plaster,  
 When he was free, was Lithgow's wise schoolmaster.”

It was the last time that the authorities had the opportunity of welcoming a resident Sovereign—Whitehall and St James's, Windsor and Hampton-Court, were hereafter to be to the thrice-royal Sirs in the place of Holyrood and Stirling, Falkland and Linlithgow.

## CHAPTER VII.

### THE COVENANTS, THE RESTORATION, AND THE REVOLUTION.

THE Reformation was now accomplished, but all the questions raised in the course of the struggle had not been disposed of; and another hundred years or more of intermittent turmoil had to pass before these could be practically settled. Few of

\* *Spottiswoode Miscellany.*

the important events of the period occurred in Linlithgow, but much may be learned from its records illustrative of the life and spirit of the time ; and in its old character of an advanced post for an invading force, as well as from its position on the great highway to the north and west, a more than ordinary share of incident will be found connected with its history.

It may be necessary to remind the reader that the first “National Covenant” was subscribed in 1579,—in which the King, nobility, and people, bound themselves to maintain the reformed church against all enemies. The three powers in the state were at this time virtually the King, the Nobility, and the Church ; and of these three the Church, as the representative of the great body of the people, from the uncompromising character of its leaders and the stern independence of its principles, was perhaps the most powerful, or at least the most unmanageable by the King. The clergy maintained their right of animadverting in the pulpit on public affairs as a spiritual privilege, and the King had adopted the theory of the right of kings to govern everything, civil and spiritual,—their responsibility being to the divinity alone, by whom the right was conferred. Collisions between the two powers were inevitable, and Blackness castle found many occupants for its cells ; and it was in consequence of the rising and tumult at Edinburgh, on one of these occasions, in 1596, that the Court, the Privy Council, and the Court of Session, were removed to what James is said to have designated as his “faithful town of Linlithgow.” Away from the influence of the Edinburgh populace, it was here, too, that the trial of John Welsh and the other ministers was conducted before the High Court of Justiciary in 1604, for treason, as ringleaders of the Aberdeen Assembly, which had met in defiance of the King’s command. Welsh and the others had been confined for a length of time previously in Blackness, and they were sentenced to depart for life from the country as traitors.\* Assemblies, in which the King carried matters his own way, were held here in 1606

\* Welsh was defended on this occasion, when every one else it is said was afraid to oppose the King, by Thomas Hope, afterwards the celebrated Sir Thomas, and then a young man. Welsh is said to have thanked him in court for his exertions, and said that he felt assured that Hope’s posterity would rise to the highest honours in the place where they now were, while the posterity of the chancellor of the Jury, Stewart of Craigie, who had shown himself inimical to the prisoners,

and 1608, and a partial episcopacy—the substitution of which for the combined and powerful action of the presbyterian church courts, the King so much desired—established.

At his visit to Scotland in 1633, Charles I. in his progress called at his ancestral palace, and the Town Council seem to have been at a loss as to how the King's retinue were to be maintained “seeing the puir peipill hes not wharupon to sustain thame.” Besides the securing of provisions and lodgings, preparations were made to present a respectable front to his majesty. A house in the Kirkgate being “theikit with straw” the Council order its owner to cover it with slates, “as it was unseemly and a disgrace to the toun;” John Ritchie, mason in Edinburgh, who had done himself so much credit in rebuilding the Cross-well, was sent for “to make ane unicorn for the head of the Market Cross;” several of the Council were to be provided with silk clothes “for the credit of the countre and the towne;” a “fuitt mantell” was borrowed from Edinburgh; and last, not least,

“*June 7.* The quhilke day, In respect that his Majestie is to come to this brugh, And considering how undecent it is to weir plaidis and blew bannetts, Thairfor it is statuitt and ordanit That no person athir in burgh or landwart weir ony banneteis nor plaidis during his Majesties remaining in this his ancient kingdome; And that none resort in the towne with bannetts or plaidis, under the paine of confiscation of thair plaidis and bannetts, and punishment of thair personne.”

The “blue bonnets” had their revenge by-and-bye. The idea of divine right, taken up by the father, was held with a still firmer faith by the son, and his dislike of presbyterianism was still stronger. The attempt of Charles to enforce the use of the Liturgy was met in the first instance by the discharge of Jenny Geddes’s stool at the head of the clergyman, and shortly after by the determined combination of all who feared the destruction of civil liberty or of Presbyterian government in the Church. And now came the renewal of the Covenant, and the famous Glasgow Assembly of 1638, and raising of armed men to go to the borders for defence of “the guid

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would cease out of the land. Welsh’s benediction has been fully realised, the various descendants of Sir Thomas Hope being now the principal landholders in the County. The first of the Hopes who appears in public life is “Edward Houp,” a successful trader or merchant in Edinburgh. He was one of the three Commissioners for Edinburgh in the first General Assembly of the Kirk in 1560, his fellow Commissioners being John Knox and James Barone.

cause." The quota of men liable for service in the burgh appears by a list in the Minute-book to have been 186, of whom about 40 were drafted at a time. A summary mode of raising money seems to have been put in practice on one occasion, "all persons in the town" being summoned before the Council to declare upon oath what money they had beside them. During the time the people were subscribing the Covenant and forming their plans in Edinburgh, in 1637, the Privy Council and the Courts were removed to Linlithgow once more, but found, one account says, the Palace so much out of repair and the houses in the town so mean that they adjourned to Stirling. Probably they thought themselves too near to Edinburgh, as they are twice found, shortly after, sitting at Linlithgow "watching events."

In the local records of the few succeeding years, there is little worthy of special notice until the expedition of Montrose in 1644, when the town submitted to the Master of Napier after the battle of Kilsyth. Napier was sent here to relieve his father, Lord Napier, now an old man, and other prisoners kept in durance here and in Blackness castle, and to proclaim a meeting of Parliament. The magistrates were afterwards called to account for this submission, and their plea in excuse appears, as well it might, considering the character of Montrose's troops, to have been satisfactory. They set forth—

"That the inhabitants had almost all then fled the town, and the Provost and some of the Bailies were also in the act of retreating, but they were hindered by the women desiring them for God's sake not to leave them in such extremity in danger of the enemy; And that the Provost and Bailies had been thus constrained to remain; and to prevent the enemy from burning the town and killing of all therein, they were compelled to comply with the enemy; and beseeching them to pardon their weakness."

It is told that after the defeat of Montrose at Philiphaugh, all the Irish, men, women, and children, of his following, who could be got hold of, were slaughtered, and that a number of stragglers picked up by Leslie's army on their way to Glasgow, were thrown over Linlithgow-bridge and drowned. If this occurred at Linlithgow-bridge, it is curious that there is no local tradition of it.

The plague which was scourging Edinburgh in 1645 and 1646, obliged the University to remove and hold its classes here for a few months. They were accommodated in the

Church, which was boarded off into class-rooms. A meeting of Parliament also was held, for the last time in the Palace, in 1646. A note of expenses of the Burgh Commissioner to the next Parliament is curious :—

The baillie James Gibbison's compt in attending the parl. qlk satt doun 3 November 1646 and rois the 27 Mартch 1647 his dayis attendance with Rot Bell consisting this time of 41 dayis at 40s. per diem . . . . .	82	0	0
For my hors hyer all this tyme and the extraordinars . . . . .	25	0	8
Extraordinars with the Agent and severall of the burrows . . . . .	3	6	0
For two pund the best tobacco that culd be had to gift to the Lord Register at the Provost desir . . . . .	4	0	0
	114	6	8

The period extending from 1638—"the second Reformation," as it is called—till the Restoration, or at least till the time of Cromwell's rule, is often looked back upon by Presbyterians as a sort of model time, in which religion flourished both to an extent which might truly be called national, and in great purity. The civil authorities were at the call of the Church courts, ready to support their findings by fine, or imprisonment, or banishment, as the case might require; and it is easy to believe that great external decorum at least prevailed. The following excerpts from the minutes of Kirk-Session may shew the extent to which the surveillance of the community was carried :—

1647, May 2. Ordainis the Bailie thatt visits on the Sabbothe in the foirnoone, and lykways the elder who visits in the afternoone, to accompanny the Minister through the toune in the eftirnoone efter sermone, everie Sabbothe, for taking notice who ar att familie exercise, or catechizing, reiding, or the lyk exercise beseiming the Sabbothe ; And who ar not, thatt they according to thair fault may be punishd.

Ordainis that, upon the Sabbothe, none be sein upon the streat till sex hours att night without ane lawfull occasion, otherwayes to be punisht as a Sabbath breaker.

After his victory at Dunbar, Cromwell found, on his advance towards Stirling, a garrison of forty men in the Palace, which he fortified to some extent, demolishing for this purpose the Town-house and other houses in the Kirkgate. The fortification seems to have consisted in enclosing with walls, the ruins of which remained till within the last thirty years, the space between the exterior gateway and the south front of the Palace—the Church, which furnished accommodation for his horses, serving to complete the enclosure. Blackness castle

surrendered, after a short siege, in April 1651; Lord Ochiltree, who had lain prisoner here since 1631, was one of the prisoners released by Cromwell's government after the battle of Worcester. If we may believe *Nicoll's Diary*, it was on 3d April 1652, “blawne up with a powder trayne. *It was reported that the devill was visiblie seen upon the walls of it at its up-blowing,*”—so congenial to the devil, in popular estimation, had been the work that had gone on in its “dungeon and reching tower.” Cromwell does not appear to have made any lengthened stay, though some of his letters are dated here, and he is found for a few days in the neighbourhood about the time of the battle of Inverkeithing.\* The garrison appear to have lived on friendly terms with the inhabitants, and to have been rather fond of ale, as the Governor is found, in 1652, desiring the Council to limit the number of “brewsters,” in consequence of the disorders of his soldiers.

The principal councillors of the town fled, on the approach of Cromwell, to Culross, whence they only returned after the battle of Worcester. The Burgh Records had a narrow escape, Colonel Sanderson sending the Councillors word that if not ransomed for £100 he would burn them. After supplication to the commission of the Kirk, then sitting at Stirling, who promised “that it sould nevir be holdin heireftir as complyance,” they succeeded in getting possession for £30, sterling. The records were immediately sent to Dundee, but after the storming of that place by General Monk, they had again to be ransomed by a payment of 48 pounds, Scots, to Lieut. Kilpatrick. The “writs” had been mixed up with those of Dundee, but were separated and brought home, “at the least so mony as war preservat.”

The congregation of the place, now broken up into two bodies of Resolutioners and Protesters, had of course to seek accommodation elsewhere—one of them in a barn, until 1656, when the Governor allowed them to resume occupation of the Church, the Resolutioners in the east end, and “the pretendit Session,” or Protesters, “whom we suppose,” say the others, “will not professe themselves to be a Sessione of the Supreme Judicatories of the Church,” in the west end of the building.

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\* See Carlyle's *Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell*.

It was altered days now from the time when they could call Earls and Councillors to their bar to answer for their political doings, as they did after “the Engagement.”

The garrison was withdrawn from the Castle, as they called the Palace now, in November 1659, the town being offered the keeping of it if they would give a bond of £1000 to keep it for the Parliament, an offer, however, which was declined; but the use of a room or two “upon the west-quarter whair the souldiers lay” was conceded for town and county business. Shortly after followed the Restoration, and the triumph of the “malignants” who had hitherto submitted, very much against their will, to the domination first of the thorough-going Presbyterians—swearing Covenants, and submitting to church discipline, which they detested—and next to the firm repressive rule of Cromwell. Shortly, too, commenced the attempt to force Episcopacy on an unwilling people, with General Thomas Dalyell to dragoon them into submission. An anecdote of Dalyell’s early days occurs in the Council Minutes, and is worth repeating, as shewing the natural character of the man:—

1639, *July* 9. The quhilk day the Provost, Bailies, and Counsall, considering the great wrong done be Thomas Dalyell, younger, of Binns, to George Bell, Bailie, one the Magdalene day last was, in sending for him and wrongouslie challenging him for dismissing of Thomas Make out of waird; and thairwith minasing and assaying to have bereft him of his lyfe; Ordeines summondis to be rasit agains him for his compeirance befoir the Secret Counsall, to answer for the foirsaid wrong.

The rejoicings of the hitherto repressed “Malignants” at the changed state of affairs were extreme, and one of the extremest cases of this occurred here in May 1661,\* on the occasion of the anniversary of the Restoration, when they burnt the Covenant, which King and ‘Courtiers all had formerly sworn to maintain. This act was long considered to be an opprobrium to the place, and the Council are found long after, in 1696, ordering search to be made in their minutes to see what part their predecessors had taken in the matter, and finding “nothing therein appointing the same to be done,” declaring

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\* A story appears in the *Mercurius Caledonius* Newspaper about this date to the effect that the swans, which had left the loch in disgust at Cromwell’s garrison (who very possibly did not feed them in winter), returned to their old quarters at the Restoration!

"that the Toun had noe hand in burning the Covenant, and any aspersion put upon the Toun thairanent to be false and calumnious." The following account of this affair is from a manuscript written about the time, in the possession of a gentleman in the Register House. Another account, not so complete, may be found in *Cruickshank's History of the Church of Scotland*, from which a few corrections have been adopted.

After publick service the streets were filled with bonfires on both sides of the streets, that it was not without hazard to be among them. The Magistrates about four o'clock in the afternoon went to the Earle of Linlithgow's lodging, inviting his lordship to honour them with his presence at the solemnity of the day. The Magistrates were Andrew Glen provost, Robert Milne, Thomas Hart, George Bell, James Glen, baylies. The Earle of Linlithgow came with the Magistrates to the mercat place accompanied with many other gentlemen, where a table was covered with confections. They were met with the Curat of the place, Ramsay (now Bishop of Dunblane), who prayed and sang a psalm (O that prophane and ungodly villand that could worship God when about his wickedness), then eating some of the confections they threw the rest among the people ; the fountain all this time running with French wine of several colours and Spanish wine, and continued two or three hours. His Lordship with the Magistrates and gentlemen drank the King and Queen's and all the Royal familie their healths, his Majesty's Commissioner the Earle of Middletoun,—breaking baskets of glasses. At the Mercat Cross was erected a crowne standing on an arch on four pillars. On the one side of the arch was placed a statue in form of an old hag having the Covenant in her hands with this superscription, A GLORIOUS REFORMATION ; and on the other side of the arch was placed another statue in form of a Whigmuir having the Remonstrance in his hand with this superscription, NO ASSOCIATION WITH MALIGNANTS ; and on the other side was drawn a Committee of Estates with this superscription, ANE ACT FOR DELIVERING THE KING ; and on the left side was drawn a Commission of the Kirk with this superscription, ANE ACT OF THE WEST-KIRK ; and on the top of the arch stood the Devil as an angel with this label in his mouth, STAND TO THE CAUSE ; and in the middle hang a table with this litany,

From covenanters with uplifted hands,  
From remonstrators with associate bands,  
From such committees as govern'd this nation,  
From kirk-commissions, and their protestation,  
*Good Lord deliver us.*

Over the pillar at the arch beneath the Covenant were drawn kirk-stools, rocks, and reels ; and over the pillar beneath the Remonstrance were drawn beechen cogs and spoons ; and on the back of the arch was drawn Rebellion in a religious habit with turned up eyes, in her right hand LEX REX, in her left a piece called THE CAUSES OF GOD'S WRATH ; round about her was lying all Acts of Parliament, of Committees of Estates, of General Assemblies, and of the Commissioners of the Kirk, with their protestations and declarations during the 22 years Rebellion ; above her was written this superscription, REBELLION IS AS THE SIN OF WITCHCRAFT. At the drinking his Majesties health fire was put to the frame, it turned it into ashes, and there appeared,

suddenly, a table supported by two angels, and on the other side the dragon, the devil, that fought with Michael the archangel, with this inscription :—

Great Britain's monarch on this day was born,  
And to his kingdoms happily restor'd :  
The queen's arriv'd, the mitre now is worn,  
Let us rejoice, this day is from the Lord.  
Fly hence, all traitors who did marr our peace ;  
Fly hence, schismatics who our church did rent ;  
Fly, covenanting, remonstrating race ;  
Let us rejoice that God this day hath sent.

The Magistrates then did accompany the Earle to the Palace where was erected a magnificent bonfire. The Earle drunk the King and Queen's good health, also, the Royal family's health. Thereafter the Magistrates made their procession through the streets.

Everybody did not rejoice, however, although most of the people kindled their bonfires. In 1663 the Council are found recommending the Bailies to "make enquiry of the diligence of the Session in finding out those who, out of contempt, did not attend church on the King's night," and in June 1664 they are found imposing a fine of five pounds each on those who did not kindle bonfires on the anniversary day. Episcopacy was again in the ascendant, and it was resolved to trample out all spirit of opposition to its establishment and continuance. The Session records are awanting from July 1660 till May 1673, but from that year a sample may be taken of much which must have gone before :—

1673, June 17. Alex. Wilson, mason, under Carribber, compeirng this day to answr for procuring baptisme to his child unwarrantably, confess he had procured baptizme to his child from a Minister of the Gospel, but refused to tell the minister's name, nor where it was done, nor when he was in the church on the Lord's day. The Session referred him to the Magistrates for making him lyable to the Law.

The town appears to have been very fortunate in its first-minister, Mr Alexander Seton, although he seems never to have been on good terms with the Council, and scarcely with any one, as according to his own account, scarcely any came to hear him preach. Possibly neither the Council nor the minister wished to punish their fellow-townsman, and each blamed the other for the "irregularities" prevalent.\* The Council on one occasion blame Seton as the principal cause of

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\* Seton was presented in 1665 by the Bishop of St Andrews. He was a brother of Sir Walter Seton of Northbank, and was himself latterly proprietor of Hiltly—both places in the neighbourhood.

them all, as he, they said, “encouraged the phanaticks to continue the conventicles, by saying, ‘poor people why sould they be hindered in preaching and praying whar they pleised!’” Shortly after he is found a little more diligent, and the following is one of his cases :—

1676, *January 30.* Archd. Henry represented in Session to be trafecting up and doun the burgh and paroch visiting and praying to sick persones dein, deiling damnation to them to their great astonishment and hazard and grief of their friends, is recommended to the Magistrates to oblige him to be lyable to the Law.

The Council seem to have temporized as well as they could, but the fact of their remissness in enforcing the law in its stringency would not hide, so the Earl of Linlithgow appears in 1681 at the Council board with a commission requiring the Councillors to subscribe the Test on their knees—a bitter pill which they took four months to get over, some, including the Town-Clerk, demitting, “not having cleirnes.” A worse dose still was in store for them, however, in a visit of a committee of Privy Council in 1683 to take the magistrates to task for their “neglect in punishing phanaticks.” There is little in the Council minutes on the subject, only the Council could find no one at next election to act as Provost, and Lord Livingston was appointed to the office by the Privy Council. The records of the Kirk-Session show only a significant blank. The atrocities committed during the dismal reigns of Charles II. and his successors, were, however, rather witnessed than fully experienced by the people here. The neighbourhood of Borrowstounness seems to have been more fertile in martyrs, one of whom was a servant girl, called Marion Harvey, who was hanged at Edinburgh for hearing Cargill, who frequently visited the neighbourhood, preach, and for holding intercourse with intercommuned persons.\* In the excitement of religious controversy, a sect calling themselves “Sweet Singers” arose in Bo’ness, under the leadership of John Gibb, a sailor. They expected the immediate advent of the millenium. A body of

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\* Sir Robert Hamilton, the leader of the Covenanters at Bothwell-bridge, is said to have taken up his residence at Borrowstounness after the Revolution. This was for convenience of correspondence with the members of the United Societies, as the extreme covenanting party then termed themselves, resident in Holland or elsewhere abroad. He is said to have died and been buried in Borrowstounness.

them once set themselves down on the slopes of the Pentlands to witness the destruction of Edinburgh by fire from heaven. John is found by-and-bye cooling his brain in Linlithgow jail.

Some incidental touches which bring the realities of history home, occur in the records, such as an order to the magistrates to secure riderless horses which had run off from the fight at Pentland. An order from Dalyell runs:—

—th the 3d off May 1667

**Provoast**

You shall Delyver the prisoners which is In your Custodie to the Laird off Hatton or any who Commands In His absence as Lykwayes the Amunitiōnes—T. DALYELL.

Receavit be Archibald Douglas, Cliftonhaugh, Ryder in the Laird of Hatton his troupe, at command of our Loutenant ffrom Robert Crawford and Umphra Welsh two of the baillies of Linlithgow by the above Comand the Magazine ffollowing viz. Threttie and two Muskets, two barrells of powder Mair ane other barrell with som powder in it, also four powder bags with some powder in the bags Mair ane barrell of Baall, with two hyds and thrie secks with Match Mair aucht prisoners I grant the Recept of the above written Magazin and prisoners be this present subscrabit with my hand at Linlithgow the ffourth May 1667. There is two of the above written prisoners seik and not able to travell so the two is left in the prison of Linlithgow.—AR. DOUGLASSE.

From the Kirk-Session minutes we have, “June 1679, Inne regard there was no sermon in regard of His Majesties forces marching through the toun befoir Bothwel Bridge ffecht.” Another notice of this same fight occurs in Kirkwood’s amusing pamphlet, *The History of the Twenty-seven Gods of Linlithgow*. Though “exceeding loath to speak so of himself till he was forced to it for his own vindication,” he thus narrates some of his own good deeds:—

Now how kind and familiar, not to say bountiful, Mr Kirkwood has been to Presbyterians in their lowest Condition, while lying in Prison, and in very great Straits, many in *Lihgow* can yet attest ; and Hundreds in that Country yet remember, what he did after that Fight at *Bothwell*, when about 1200 Prisoners, most of them naked, were carried through that town to *Edinburgh*, he pitying these poor distressed People, went to the Captain *Alexander Brown of Thornidike*, who commanded the Guards, being of his old Acquaintance and Condisciple, and got from him his Cane, as a token to the Soulđiers, not to hinder him to do to the Prisoners all the kindness he could ; for People were not easily permitted Access, some of the prisoners having made their Escape by means of those that went to them ; and there from Three in the Morning, till Ten in the Forenoon, he alone stood on the Flesh-market Wall, and gave in over it above 300 Suits of Cloaths, and exceeding much Meat and Drink, not without hazard of his Person, being often like to follow the Cord, with which he let down the Barrels to those Prisoners, of whom many thereafter came back and thanked him heartily, for the Favour he had done them.”

The accession of James VII.,\* more deeply immersed in the dream of divine right than even his father, brought no relief; and no elections of Town Council were even permitted in his reign, the magistrates being nominated by the Privy Council. It was not wonderful that the people got thoroughly tired of the Stuarts, and so thoroughly disgusted with their absurd pretensions as emphatically to declare that James, when he ran away, had not merely abdicated, but forfeited, his claim to the crown.

The Revolution came, William and Mary reigned in his stead, and the long fight against the establishment of arbitrary power was over. Even the Kirk was quiet over its divine rights, and those who were dissatisfied with the new settlement, formed at the one extreme the Scotch Episcopal Church, and at the other the United Societies men, now known as Cameronians and Reformed Presbyterians.

Kirkwood, who was appointed in room of David Skeoch (a schoolmaster removed in 1675 for attending conventicles), gives a curious satirical picture in his pamphlet, of some of the doings of the time. Amongst these he relates that at the Revolution the inhabitants assembled in arms at the Cross to the number of some hundreds, and sent orders to the two ministers to vacate their offices. It does not appear that this “rabbling of the curates” was effective here, but the second minister was shortly afterwards removed for refusing to pray for King William and Queen Mary.

The Presbyterians were in power once more, with Walter Stewart of Pardovan,† a young man, according to Kirkwood,

\* James VII., when Duke of York, paid the Town a visit in 1681, when he was entertained at great cost in the Town-house by the Magistrates. The expenses amounted to 1856 lib. 7s. 6d. Scots.

† The site of the house in the town occupied by Stewart is still pointed out. The house itself was taken down a few months ago. An old lintel gives the date, 1596, and the initials of Robert Stewart and of Janet Forrest, the representative of Henry Forrest, the first provost, and through marriage with whom Stewart acquired the property. Ceilings do not seem to have been in use, as the joists and under surface of the floors above were, as well as the walls and under surface of the roof of the upper story, found to be gaudily decorated with heraldic devices and scroll-work. Walter Stewart built another house, at the east end of the town, probably the one fronting the old tower, for a residence. Walter Stewart was a very zealous Presbyterian, and his book, known as *Pardovan's Collections*, is still an authority on the procedure in Church courts.

hardly yet major, at their head as Provost ; and poor Kirkwood was forced out of the school because he would not, he says, attend the Presbyterian meeting (still held, he says, in Stewart's kitchen), until he saw whether Presbytery or Episcopacy was to be established as the national church government. Kirkwood,\* like his predecessor, Ninian Winzet, was clever, and fond of arguing a point, and so could not agree with men whom he too much despised. His book professes to be an account of the plea betwixt himself and the Town Council, occasioned by their forcible ejection of himself from the school, and of his wife, Goletine van Beest, and his fine Dutch furniture from his dwelling-house. It would occupy too much space to follow all the law and lawless proceedings which occurred, but it may be mentioned that the affair was eventually carried before the Lords of the Privy Council, and did not terminate till 1712, Kirkwood gaining all his pleas, and the Council very glad to get rid of proceedings which had "cost the town so much uneasiness and expenses." One of the most ridiculous proceedings of the Council is that which gave rise to the title of the tract :—

"The Town Council alleged Mr Kirkwood said, *They had done him Injustice*, did thence infer, that he was a *Reviler of the Gods of his People* : For this Crime they fyned him in 200 Merks.

"Now know that they were due him the equivalent sum and so easily paid that Debt. \* \* \*

"Was it not, think you a mighty lucky hit of Providence that the Town's Debt and Mr Kirkwood's Crime jumpt so nicely, that the very Thought of man cannot discern a Difference. But what if the Debt had been triple or quadruple more, than it was ? That says nothing, a Crime committed against the Gods, being of infinite extent can reach it, tho never so high."

"By Gods they here mean the 27 members of the Town Council, the Provost, Four Bailies, Dean of Gild, Treasurer, Twelve Councillors, Eight Deacons;

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He left his estate of Pardovan and his house here to the Glasgow Society for propagating Christian knowledge. Stewart belonged to the party opposed to the Union with England, and as a member of the Scotch Parliament, joined in protesting against that measure.

\* He was editor or rather author of a revised edition of Despaute's Latin Grammar, which was used in the schools under the name of Kirkwood's Grammar, until displaced by Ruddiman's. When examined before the Commissioners of schools and colleges, after the Revolution, as to the best Latin Grammar for schools, he declined giving an opinion, having previously published one himself. Being then asked what he thought of Despaute, he said, that "if its superfluities were rescinded, the defects supplied, the intricacies cleared, the errors rectified, and the method amended, it might well pass for an excellent Grammar." He was appointed, a few days after, to perform this work.

so that the Websters, Sutors, Tailors, are Gods in *Lithgow*. . . . At the reading of the Information, it was pretty warmly debated by persons of honour, whether it was GOD *Provost or Kirkwood*. A Reviler of the Gods of GOD'S People or the Provost's People, or Kirkwood's People. Some were for One, some for another, some for none of them, averring it was not good Grammar, considering the context of the Information, and that instead of *His* it should be *The ; a Reviler of the Gods of the People*. Others cry'd out, it was the hight of Blasphemy, to call any Webster or Tailor in the kingdom a God."

In Kirkwood's time the Burgh School employed three masters, and the school for long after maintained a considerable reputation. Amongst its notable pupils may be mentioned John, Earl of Stair, who boarded with Kirkwood, and Colonel Gardiner, who lived at Burnfoot, near Carriden, in his youth.

When Prince Charles passed through the town, in 1745, on his way to the south, he was entertained, and the Palace-well was set a-running with wine in honour of the occasion, by the lady in charge of the Palace, Mrs Glen Gordon. Provost Bucknay, who is said to have been a Jacobite, had so little faith in the success of the Rebellion, as it is called, that he, like most other Jacobites, took himself out of the way.

After the marchings of the Highlanders, and of their pursuers, and the accidental burning of the Palace, in which they were lodged, by Hawley's dragoons in 1746, on the day after their flight from Falkirk, there is nothing of historical interest requiring mention in connection with the place. Regarding the burning of the palace a good story is told of Mrs Glen Gordon, the keeper. It is said that, observing the disorderly conduct of the soldiers, she went to remonstrate with their General, and to get his assistance to extinguish the fire which already threatened the house, but finding her remonstrances in vain, she took leave of him in these words—"a-weel, a-weel, I can rin fra fire as fast as ony General in the King's army"—alluding to Cope's defeat at Prestonpans, and to Hawley's own on the preceding day. It has been averred, too, that Hawley was in no way sorry to witness the destruction of this monument of the doomed race of the Stuarts.

The Palace has stood since then a roofless ruin, saved only by occasional repairs from crumbling into a mass of rubbish. It was at one time in contemplation to fit it up as a barrack for prisoners of war, but the notion was abandoned at the

request of the late Lord-President Blair of the Court of Session, who had purchased the estate of Avontoun, and built a residence in the neighbourhood. Another proposal to convert it into the County Court-buildings has since been abandoned, and the attention and expense which the Commissioners of Woods and Forests now bestow upon it, promise to preserve for a long time to come what Sir Walter Scott has justly characterised as “one of the most striking objects of antiquity which Scotland yet affords.”



Burgh Seal.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### DECAY OF THE OLD BURGHAL SYSTEM; AND OTHER MATTERS.

THE exclusive privilege of trading within certain districts, which the burghs possessed, seems to have existed pretty entire until the end of the seventeenth century. Under this state of affairs, Blackness, the port of the burgh, seems, latterly at least, to have been a flourishing little place. Sir Robert Sibbald, in his History of the County, has given an account of it, as it was in his time:—

Sir Robert Drummond of Meidhope (who lived [till] after the restoration of Charles the II.) declared to several of the Gentrie his neighbours, that he remembered to have seen only one house where now Borrowstounness and the other towns now continued to Carriden now stand. I know in my time that they and the South Ferry had some 36 ships belonging to them, though in all that tract upon the south side of the Forth, there is no place for ships to lye

at, but at Blackness. There are many rich men merchants and masters of ships living there, and the cities of *Glasco*, *Stirlin* and *Linlithgow* had a great trade from thence with Holland, Bremen, Hamburg, Queensburgh, and Dantzie, and furnished all the west country with goods they imported from these places, and then loaded outwards with the product of their own country.

The increasing population of the country seems to have demanded increased accommodation, and the large proprietors on the shores of the sea set themselves, for their own profit or convenience, to supply it. The burgh of Linlithgow was in a low pecuniary condition, arising from the many losses sustained during the contests already enumerated, and the community could not afford the outlay requisite to enable them to maintain the position of their port. The first encroachment of this kind which appears, is the erection, in 1615, of the lands of Grange into a barony with the privileges of a free port. This encroachment, which threatened the interests of the burgh, was the subject of a compromise between the proprietor, Sir John Hamilton of Beircroft, and the Council, in which the erection is acceded to by the burgh on condition that the burgesses of Linlithgow should have access to and use of the port free of toll or custom, and that, when any vessel arrived with merchandise, the goods should be offered to the Council and burgesses, at a price below which they should not subsequently be sold to any one else.

The next affair of the kind was the erection of Queensferry into a Royal Burgh in 1636. In this case, Linlithgow opposed the erection, and an arrangement was come to in 1641, whereby Queensferry agreed to pay 10 merks yearly to Linlithgow as a sort of rent for their customs; the burgesses and guild-brethren of Linlithgow were to have the same privileges in Queensferry as its own; and before any foreigner got liberty to sell his cargo, twenty-four hour's notice was to be given to Linlithgow.

A more formidable opponent than either of these shortly appeared in "the village of Borrowstounness," which, in October 1661 the Council received information, that "Deuk Hamilton" was trying to get "erected into a Burgh-Royal or Burgh of Baronie, or of Regalitie." The opposition of the Council, backed as they were by the Convention of Burghs, was unavailing, as the Duke seems to have succeeded, in 1668,

in getting his town erected into a Burgh of Regality.\* Burghs of Barony and of Regality were shortly after declared by Parliament to be entitled to the same freedom of trade as Burghs-Royal, and it does not appear that Linlithgow secured any special privilege in Borrowstounness. This was not the only contest that the Burgh had with their formidable opponent, the Duke, the removal of the Custom-house to Borrowstounness being the occasion of one; and the attempt to levy customs at the fair, in accordance with the charter of 1601 which conferred a right to the customs of all fairs held in the county, giving rise to another.† The Council repaired or rebuilt their house in Blackness, and got the Custom-house re-transferred; they even offered the inducement of the freedom of Linlithgow gratuitously to all masters of vessels taking up their residence in Blackness; but all would not do, the influence of the Duke prevailed, and the Custom-house was again taken away, and what was worse, the trade followed it. Many lamentations there are in the Minutes of Council for many years after, over the "decay of trade:" the trade of the "unfrie places," they say about this time, "far exceeds that of Lithgow;" and in 1700, getting notice that the Duke of Hamilton was seeking power to levy an impost for building a harbour, they protest "that the building the said harbour at Bo'nes should not prejudge the Towns herbour at Blacknes." It was finally settled in 1713 that the Custom-house should remain at Bo'ness.

It has been the fate of Blackness to dwindle away into a mere sea-bathing village for the good folks of Linlithgow and Falkirk, the remains of its pier still bearing witness, however, to its having been something more. The Castle, which, from its command of the upper waters of the Firth of Forth, was

\* It was made a Burgh of Barony after the extinction of the heritable jurisdictions. Its affairs are now managed by Town and Harbour Trustees under a special Act.

† These attempts to uphold the "rights" of the burgh sometimes led to serious consequences. For instance there is amongst the town's papers a "Submission" as to the amount payable to the wife and relatives of a tacksman of the Customs in consequence of his maltreatment and slaughter while attempting to uplift the petty customs at Queensferry fair on 25th July 1628. The plea of slaughter was dismissed, as the man lived for some time after, but the parties offending were amerced in £800, Scots.

wont to be esteemed as one of the “keys of the kingdom,”\* has had its original flat roof covered over with a sloping slated one; and is about to be turned to use in connection with a powder magazine, to be erected in lieu of that now in Edinburgh Castle.

The merchant trade, “whilk was our subsistence” the Council say on one occasion, having thus departed, the town to some extent decayed, and the inhabitants had to look about for other employment. Defoe, in the course of his tour some time after the Union, describes Linlithgow as “a pleasant, handsome, well built Town,” and gives the following picture of what he saw:—

At *Lithgow* there is a very great Linnen Manufacture, as there is at *Glasgow*; and the Water of the Lough or Lake here, is esteem’d with the best in *Scotland* for Bleaching or Whitening of Linnen Cloth: so that a great deal of Linnen, made in other parts of the Country, is brought here either to be bleach’d or whiten’d.

The People look here as if they were busy, and had something to do; whereas in most Towns we pass’d through they seemed as if they look’d disconsolate for want of Employment. The whole Green, fronting the Lough or Lake, was cover’d with Linnen-Cloth, it being the bleaching Season, and I believe, a Thousand Women and Children, and not less, tending and managing the bleaching Business.

In 1795 the writer of the old *Statistical Account* describes this trade as among the things that were, wool-combing and the preparation of leather, and shoemaking, being then, as the last is still, the principal manufactures of the place. He says that there were then 100 persons employed making shoes, and that the number of pairs made in a year was 24,000. The population, according to his own survey, in 1792–93, was in the town 2282, in the landward part of the parish 939, being rather more than half the number shown by the census returns of 1861. Besides shoemaking, there is still some currying and tanning of leather, and making of glue, the only other manufactories in the town or immediate neighbourhood being a distillery, a soap-work, and a paper-mill.

Borrowstounness, which, up to 1780, had ranked as the

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\* It is usually averred that Blackness, Stirling, Edinburgh, and Dumbarton castles, are kept up in terms of the Treaty of Union. “There is no stipulation in the Treaty of Union as to the maintenance of any fortresses. How the popular belief to the contrary arose, I cannot say, but it is universal, although quite groundless.”—*Note from Mr Robertson.*

third port in Scotland, decayed after this, its trade passing into other channels; but it has since revived to some extent in consequence of the erection of large iron-works in its neighbourhood, and the extension to it of railway communication.

Almond Iron-Works, about three miles west from Linlithgow, may also be mentioned in connection with the manufactures of the district. Linlithgow, however, from its geological position, is likely to escape the smoke, if it cannot reap the benefit, of the closer neighbourhood of such works. So long ago as 1718 a search was made for coal in the Burgh-muir, by "Daniel Peak, gentleman," who took a fifty-seven years' lease of it, and also erected a mill at the back sluice of St Ninians' mill for refining metals, but, being unsuccessful, this lease was taken off his hands in 1725. It must have been near this where King James VI. erected his mills "for the stamping, melting, and fyning of the mettell of his Majesteis" mines at Hilderston, (about four miles to the south of Linlithgow). Mr Robert Chambers relates in his sketch of *Tam o' the Cowgate*, more properly, Thomas Hamilton, the first Earl of Haddington,\* who flourished in the reign of James VI., that "Having worked a silver mine in Linlithgowshire into something like a good character, he sold it to King James for £5000; and it is said that the poor monarch never made 5s. more by the concern, the vein being in reality exhausted." The ore is the ordinary galena or lead ore, and occurs in veins in the mountain limestone. A company has recently been formed to attempt to work the ore profitably, and it is to be hoped that they will have more success than his majesty. Atkinson, who for some time conducted the refining, gives in his *Gold Discovery in Scotland*, the following "pre-scientific" account of the opening of the Hilderston mine:—

"Sir Bevis Bulmer sett dounie in his booke, the manner how the rich silver Mynes at Hilderstone in Scotland were found; and how they were lost, &c. After the full discovery thereof he rested not untill he named them, calling one pitt or shafte there, God's Blessing, &c.

"Now concerning the first finding thereof, Sir Bevis saith in his booke, that it wes found out by mere fortune or chance of a collier, by name Sandy Maund a Scotsman, as he sought about the skirts of those hills neere to the bourne or water of Hilderstone. And the Scotsman, by meanes of digging the ground, hitt upon the heavy peece of redd-mettle; no man thereabout

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\* See Chambers's *Pocket Miscellany*, vol. 1.

ever saw the like. It had descended from a vaine thereof, where it had engendered with the sparr stone in forraine provinces called by other travillers Cacilla. And he sought farther into the ground, and found a peece of brownish sparr-stone, and it was mossie. He broke it with his mattocke, and it was white, and glittered within like unto small white copper-keese, which is to be found in many common free-stones. And he never dreamed of any silver to be in that stone, and he shewed it to some of his freinds ; and they said, “ Where hadst thou it ? ” Quoth he, “ At the Silver bourne, under the hill called the Kerne-Popple. Whereupon a gent. of Lythcoo ” sent him to seek Sir Bevis Bulmer about Glengoner water, promising that if Sir Bevis did not take up the matter his expenses would be paid.

“ The greatest quantity of Silver that ever was gotten at God’s Blessing, was raised and fined out of the red-mettle ; and the purest sort thereof then conteyned in it 24 ounce of fine silver upon every hundred weight; vallewed at vj score pounds starling the ton. And much of the same redd-mettle, by the assay held twelve score pounds starling per ton weight. But when the same mines befell unto the King’s Majesty to be superiour or governour thereof, then indeed it was not so rich in silver altogether. . . . Until the same redd-mettle came unto 12 faddomes deepe, it remaned still good ; from thence into 30 fathome deepe it proved nought : the property thereof was quite changed miraculously in goodness, it was worth little or nothing ; and mere, upon an instant, after the Brunswicks entered, it was quite altered in quality, but not in colour, fashion and heavines.”

In connection with the old privileges of burghs must be mentioned the custody of the standards for weights and measures. These, while yet the “ Court of the Four Burghs ” was in existence, were apportioned out amongst these four for safe keeping ; and the other burghs were furnished by them with copies. This privilege was afterwards confirmed to Edinburgh, Stirling, Lanark, and Linlithgow, by various acts of Parliament. The standard of the peck and firlot was committed to the keeping of Linlithgow. An attempt was made in 1707, immediately after the Union, to set aside this privilege, a number of brass bushels being sent to Scotland for distribution among the burghs. The town, however, with Stirling and Lanark, opposed this innovation, and it was ultimately arranged that the whole were to be sent here, “ each Burgh to get one and a set of small wooden ones for 30 lib.”\*

Occasion seems to have been taken of the visit of Charles I. to crave a boon, which appears in the shape of a charter (1633) extending the authority of the magistracy over all the

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\* The Linlithgow wheat firlot contained  $21\frac{1}{2}$  Scotch pints, the barley firlot 31 pints, three Scotch pounds of Water-of-Leith being the standard of the pint.

highways, roads, and paths, for a mile round the burgh. The heavy losses sustained from Cromwell's operations here form the occasion for the granting of the next charters. In December 1651 the Council "supplicate the English for diminution of the cess for the armie" on account of losses, a note of which, both of the common-good and of the inhabitants, was given in to Colonel Lytcott, who promised to befriend them,—the total amount being £20,500, sterling. No relief, however, could be given without new orders from the Protector, and the Commander-in-Chief recommends the Council to confer with the county gentlemen to share with them. An abatement was given for one half-year at least in 1657, but there appears nothing more. By 1659 the town appears to be recovering its prosperity, as the Council are then found rebuilding their much-prized Cross-well (which had been injured or destroyed by the English), by public voluntary subscription, as before. When the Restoration came, and the town had testified its loyalty so signally, as has been related, and had the Earl of Linlithgow to back their representation, their application for some compensation for their losses met with more consideration, and the Council got a grant (1662) of double customs for nineteen years, and the privilege of holding an additional Fair on the 14th of February annually. A farther grant or charter was procured, empowering the Council to impose a tax of 20s. on every boll of malt, or of 2d. on every pint of ale brewed in the town.

By this dubious style of compensation, money sufficient was raised to build the present Town-house. This was done in a very handsome way, from a design by John Mylne, the King's master-mason, in 1668–70. The building, as already mentioned, was flat-roofed and balustraded, and had an open balustraded double staircase in front. It would appear, also, that a spire, such as was subsequently supplied, was no part of the original design, as the Council are found, in 1673, sending James Heyslope, wright, to Edinburgh to procure a design for one, and considering, in 1678, the offer of the deacon of the wrights, to mount it.

The only remaining charters or acts in favour of the burgh are those relating to the customs levied at the bridge over the Avon, at Linlithgow-bridge, and at the other fords and bridges

on the Avon from the west-bridge (about seven miles from Linlithgow), to the mouth of the river. Before the date of these acts or charters, it would appear that the burgh kept up, or professed to keep up, a bridge over the Avon, but that it was in a very lamentable condition before the Earl of Linlithgow advanced money about 1660 to build the present structure, in consideration of getting a lease of the customs for nineteen years. This lease was renewed by the King in 1677 for other nineteen years, but was resigned to the burgh in 1681, and, in 1685, the extended privilege above mentioned was conferred, for all time coming, by act of Parliament.\*

The Earls of Linlithgow, whose devotion to the Stuarts led to their being attainted for their complicity in the Jacobite rising of 1715, may thus be considered benefactors of the burgh. In the days when lairdships were more numerous than they are now, and such places as Linlithgow were small capitals where these lairds kept up their town-houses, in which they resided for a part at least of the year, both for the convenience of being near the schools with their families, and for the sake of society, the Earls of Linlithgow, whose country house was at Meidhope, and whose town house was the Palace, of which they were keepers, would be the great men of the place. It was doubtless out of compliment to the family that the old burgh tune—to which (but musical antiquaries must decide) the burghers may have marched to Flodden—received the name of “Lord Lithgow’s March.”†

It was during this time that Earl George built, in 1688, the family burial-place attached to the choir of the church. The above-ground part of it was lately removed by the Heritors, and was a curious example of the architecture of a time when the ideas of the mediæval artists were lost. The same may

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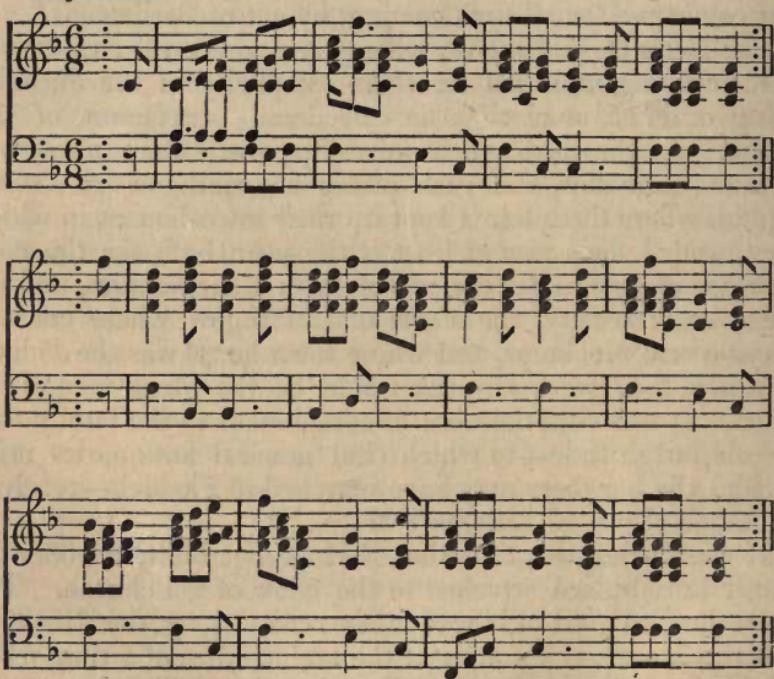
\* The right to levy Bridge and Town Custom from the Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway Company was recently the subject of a long litigation. After having been affirmed in favour of the Burgh three several times in the Court of Session, the Case has been at length given against the Burgh by the House of Lords, in a decision which ingeniously avoids consideration of the points of law raised in the Court below.

† Its other name, which is believed to be the old one, is “The rock and the wee pickle tow.” It appears as the name of a Tune in Ramsay’s *Tea-table Miscellany*, published 1724. In Herd’s *Collection* (1776) there is a Song to the tune, by Alex. Ross, schoolmaster of Lochee, Forfarshire. The song is not worth repeating as a whole, but the first stanza is quaint enough:—

be said of the Cross-well, which was not formerly raised on so high a pedestal, but would in all likelihood be set low enough to allow of dipping out of the lower troughs, and it must originally have more nearly resembled that in the Palace. On the Palace-well itself may be noticed an unsuccessful attempt,

**THE ROCK AND THE WEE PICKLE TOW.**

*Allegro vivace.*



There was an auld wife had a wee pickle tow,  
 And she wa'd gae try the spinnin' o't;  
 She louted her doun, and her rock took a-lowe,  
 And that was an ill beginnin' o't.  
 She sat and she grat, and she flate, and she flang,  
 She flew, and she blew, and she wriggled, and wrang,  
 She chokit, and boakit, and cried—like to mang—  
 Wae's me for the dreary beginnin' o't.

This has evidently been suggested by a verse in the ancient ballad, "The Wife of Auchtermuchty," well known in its modernised dress of "John Grumlie." The verse runs:—

of probably a little earlier date, appropriately to replace one of the balance-turrets.\* It is on this turret that a few letters of legend yet remain on a scroll held by a full-length figure, and which legend has been in one work given as, **MY FRUIT IS FIDELITY TO GOD AND THE KING**—the popular motto of the burgh. The motto on the scroll was possibly “God save the King,” but it could not from its length be the other—the burgh motto, in all probability, (like the supplement to the motto on the arms of Glasgow, “*LET GLASGOW FLOURISH by the preaching of the Word,*” being one found after the Reformation, without Heraldic authority or concurrence, and intended to supersede the old popish-looking one, **COLLOCET IN CÆLIS NOS OMNES VIS MICHAELIS**—(May the might of Michael establish us in the Heavens!)†

Most of the old burghs had certain common lands attached to them, part of which was usually a common of which the burgesses were entitled to make free use. The Burgh-muir here was enclosed about the year 1675. The following abstract of the usual items of the debit side of the Treasurer’s account about 1540, shews the value of the landed property, as well as the other sources of burgh revenue, at that time :—

The calvis and ky met in the lone,  
The man ran with ane rung to red ;  
Than thair cumis ane illwilly cow,  
And brodit his buttock quhill that it bled.  
Than hame ran to a rok of tow,  
And he sat down to ‘say the spinning ;  
I trow he lowtit owr neir the low—  
Quoth he, “ This wark has ill beginning.”

\* This was pointed out by Mr Robertson.

+ Possibly the Act of 1673 was aimed at such innovations. The Emblazonment furnished in that year by Sir Charles Araskine, Lyon King of Arms, (and which is still preserved in the Burgh Charter-chest), thus describes the “Ensigns Armorial :—Azure, the figure of the Archangell Michaell with wings expanded treading on the bellie of a Serpent lying with its tail fesswayes in base, all argent, the head of which he is pearcing through with a Spear in his dexter hand, and grasping with his sinister, ane Inescutcheon charged with the Royall Armes of Scotland, The Motto being **COLLOCET IN CÆLIS NOS OMNES VIS MICHAELIS**. And upon the reverse of the seal of the said Burgh is insculped in a field or, a Greyhound bitch sable, chained to ane Oak tree within ane loch proper. Which armes above blazoned I heirby declare to have been and to be the true and unrepealable signes armoriall of the above-named Royall Burgh of Linlithgow, for ever.”

Balance in hand or outstanding from last year . . . . .	£56	9	0
Rents,—Lonyngs 40s, Flask and Leech-loch 59s, Burghlands 53s 4d,			
Masons Parks 25s, 7s 6d, 7s 6d, Flaskhill 18s, Bogside 53s 4d,			
Carmontlaws 29s, a Feu 6s, Shops, Cellars, Tavern and Volt, in the Tolbooth or Town-house, 68s. . . . .	18	6	8
Burgh Customs £15, 15s ; Blackness Customs 10s . . . . .	16	5	0
Bell, and Street-sweepings . . . . .	1	4	0
Entries of Burgesses . . . . .	4	16	0
Procrases* . . . . .	23	5	9
Churchyard dues . . . . .	2	16	8
Legacies . . . . .	1	7	0
Donations to “kyrk werk” . . . . .	2	4	0
Prior of St Andrews' dues to do. . . . .	3	6	8

The lands are all sold, but the old custom of inspecting the boundaries is still kept up. This “Riding the Marches” has come, by long-continued use, to be held on the Tuesday in June which follows the second Thursday. When the incorporated trades, and fraternities, still retained their privileges, and riding in wheeled vehicles was scarcely known, the ceremony was picturesque, and even imposing. Each trade had its banner, and some of them a peculiar style of personal decoration, and there would sometimes be twelve different companies and three hundred riders. It has been popularly supposed that the keeping up of this ceremony is a condition of some of the old charters, and that the burgh would lose some of its rights should they suffer it to go down. This notion is possibly founded on a reference to it in the charter of 1593, which, amongst other things, confirms to the burgh their lands, “as they have enjoyed and perambulated them in time past.” The earliest references in the Court-book to the custom occur in 1541 and 1542 :—

1541, Oct. 19. That all the common lands of the burgh mure and utheris, and all common passagis, als weill without the burgh as wyndis within the samyn, be vesitit seigne and considerit zeirlie, upon Pasche Tyisday, be the provost bailies consale and communite, and reformat and mendit quhair need is.

1542, April 17. The Assys ordains the Provost and Bailies to sett ane day that the consale and hale communite mycht pass abowt the comon lands and to sett marches as wss is of uther borrows.

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\* This item in the accounts, supposed in chapter v. to be the altar dues and fines of the trades, probably included these. The entry occurs once as “procrases and offerends of the kirk,” and at another time as “procrsyis at the kyrrkend.” It appears again as “procuranis,” and the word is probably a contraction or corruption of *procurationes*.

The perambulation now consists in a visit to Linlithgow-bridge, the limit of the jurisdiction to the west, and then to Blackness, where the magistrates hold a court on the Castle-hill, calling their vassals before them (who, however, never appear), and appoint a Bailie for the port—a nearly nominal office now.\*

The self-electing system, the introduction of which has been already traced, seems, so far as ascertained, to have prevailed, with little interruption, down to the passing of the Municipal Reform Act in the reign of William IV. Before the passing of the Parliamentary Reform Bill, the Town Councils chose the members of Parliament; Selkirk, Peebles, Lanark, and Linlithgow, latterly returning one member, and a "good correspondence" was kept up by the Councils on the subject of the elections. Bribery of Deacons and Councillors prevailed of course in all contested elections, and the bribery and management extended to the members of the incorporated trades, so as to influence them to return deacons who would vote as wished in the Council. One of these contests (1754), conducted here with much violence, led to a double election of council and magistrates, and an expensive law-suit between the parties to determine which was the Council—the result being that neither party were entitled to hold office.

"Among the useful institutions here, Dr Henry's library justly deserves to be named. That gentleman, well known to the world by his valuable history, having experienced the sweets of knowledge himself, benevolently wished others to share them. With that view, he bequeathed his books, under certain regulations, to the magistrates and town council, and ministers of the presbytery of Linlithgow, as the foundation of a larger collection. It is to be hoped, they will show themselves worthy of the trust, and promote a design of such general utility."

Dr Henry spent the last few years of his life at Millfield, near Polmont, about four miles west from Linlithgow. He died in 1790, and the above notice is from the old *Statistical*

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\* About the middle of last century, when the Incorporations were still in their glory, the town abounded with the class of persons known as "characters," and there exists a curious little pamphlet, the work of some young men of the place, in the form of a play, entitled *The Marches-day, a Dramatic Entertainment of three Acts, as annually performed by the Originals at \_\_\_\_\_*, in which the peculiarities of the individuals—some of them still remembered—are happily hit off, and a racy though rough picture presented of some phases of the country-town life of the time.

*Account* (1795). Besides classical works, and the usual theological books found in a clergyman's library, there are the various historical and antiquarian works accumulated during the composition of his own History of Great Britain. From some ill-working provisions in the will, it is alleged, as to the management, Dr Dobie's anticipations have been sadly falsified. The remains of the library are now deposited in the Session-house of the Church, and Dr Henry's portrait, by Martin, adorns the Council Chamber.\*

The only public or prominent erections which have not come under notice in the course of the narrative, are the County Hall, the various dissenting Churches, the Poorhouse, and the Commercial Bank, a building in the Scotch Baronial style, which is said to stand on the site of what was of old the principal Inn of the place, and behind which still stands one of the old round Dove-cots of the fifteenth or sixteenth century.†

The County Hall is situated behind the Town-house, and though externally plain, the interior is handsome and convenient, and the large hall contains a fine portrait, by Raeburn, of General Sir John Hope, afterwards Earl of Hopetoun, who was second in command of the army in Spain under General Moore; another by Sir John Watson Gordon, of General Sir Alexander Hope, brother of the same Earl, who for eleven successive Parliaments was member for the county; and a third, by J. R. Swinton, of London, of the present Earl of Rosebery, for many years Lord-Lieutenant of the county. It was through the influence of his Lordship that the restoration of the "four orders" on the outer gateway of the palace was effected. The Hopetoun family when they purchased the estate of Abercorn acquired the then heritable office of Sheriff of the county, and since 1715 the Earls have generally been its Lord-Lieutenants. Charles, first Earl, appears in the Council

\* The books are under charge of the Presbytery, in terms of an arrangement made with the Town-council in 1852. Many of the volumes had been destroyed when the Town-house (where they were then deposited) was burnt in 1847; but the Library had been closed for some years before that.

† The most recent addition to the historical mementoes of the place is one of the Russian guns from Bomarsund, presented by Government to the Council and inhabitants. It has (under the superintendence of Admiral Sir James Hope, of Carriden, who served in the Baltic fleet) been mounted upon an oak carriage made after the model of those used in Bomarsund.

Minutes directing that a Guard of thirty men should be kept in the Palace, and the Council are found supplicating him for 200 stand of arms, they having only 200 to supply the 400 "fencible men" in the town. Hopetoun House, about six miles from Linlithgow, near the old castle of Abercorn, was built about 1700 from a design by Sir William Bruce, the restorer of Holyrood, and the wings in front were added near the end of last century, under the direction of William Adam.

Of the dissenting churches, the oldest erection is the East United Presbyterian "Meeting-house," built in 1805, when the congregation changed their place of meeting, and is only remarkable as an advanced type of the churches of the Secession of 1733. The congregation originally met at Craigmailin, a few miles to the south. After the split of the Secession into the two parties of Burghers and Anti-Burghers, they adhered to the latter. The West United Presbyterian Congregation was formed in 1772, and adhered to the Burghers. The present Church, as also the Congregational Chapel, which accommodated a small body of Independents formed at the time the Haldanes commenced preaching, are recent erections. The Free Church has of course been built since the Disruption. The Poorhouse, which, under the new Poor Law, may be said to replace the old "Hospital" of the town, belongs to a combination of eight parishes, and was built to accommodate 270 paupers, but at present has only about 120 inmates.

Extensive repairs and alterations were made on the Church in 1812, when the choir and a portion of the chancel were fitted up with pews and galleries in the usual style, and the open oak-timber roof of the wester half, and the ceiled one of the choir, were removed, the dividing arch of the nave taken down, and a new roof with plastered ceiling was placed over the whole. The light and elegant crown which adorned and relieved the heavy square tower was removed about 1821—(leaving the outer battlement and the four balance turrets)—from an apprehension that it must otherwise fall. It has not since been restored, although designs were got at the time, either for finishing the tower in a plain way or for restoring

the crown.\* The incorporated trades, who, after the Reformation, had their dues to the altarages changed into the upholding of the church windows, claimed a sort of vested interest in the building, and the shoemakers held for a time the privilege of holding the annual meeting for the election of their deacon in the south transept, known as St Katherine's aisle. The burgh, although it has lost its right of presentation to the Church,† is still considered two-thirds heritor so far as relates to the upholding of the fabric, and still retains in its hands the right of digging the graves in the churchyard. In the various ecclesiastical changes the other privileges of the Town Council have been lost. The parish of Binny, it may be mentioned, was conjoined with Linlithgow about the beginning of the seventeenth century.

It may also be mentioned, in conclusion, that in consequence of recent legislation, the title of the "twenty-seven Gods" is no longer applicable to the Town Council, the number of Councillors—including provost and three bailies—being now fifteen, who are also Commissioners under the "Lindsay Act," which they have recently adopted, and under which the Municipal limits have been extended to the Parliamentary boundary; and that, the police of the burgh being conjoined with that of the county, the Council has now only one Officer instead of the four—one to each bailie—that the Burgh maintained in its ancient state, before the days of the various "Boards," which now manage affairs that long ago came almost wholly under the control of the authorities of the Burgh.

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\* One of the Engravings in the original edition of Sir Walter Scott's *Provincial Antiquities*, is a view of the Church, taken previous to the removal of its finishing ornament.

† It was deprived of this at the re-establishment of Episcopacy in the reign of Charles II., the advowson or patronage being then conferred upon the Archbishop of St Andrews, although the parish was within the new bishopric of Edinburgh. At the abolition of Episcopacy in 1690, the patronage was retained by the Crown.

## APPENDIX.

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### SKETCH OF THE GEOLOGY OF LINLITHGOW,

By ARCHIBALD GEIKIE, Esq., F.R.S., Director of H. M. Geological  
Survey for Scotland.

THE town of Linlithgow stands on the eastern edge of a great coal-field, which, stretching northward into Fife, and west and southward across Stirling and Lanark, occupies a large area of central Scotland. East from the town the Lower Carboniferous strata appear and form the undulating country as far as Edinburgh. They consist of a series of sandstones and shales, often abounding with *stigmariae*, *calamites*, *lepidodendra*, *sphenopteres*, and other typical plants. On the shore at Queensferry, at Newton three miles farther west, in the Railway cuttings at Craigton and Winchburgh, and at Broadlaw near Binny Craig, there are found a set of thin limestones and calcareous shales, containing in great numbers the remains of a minute bean-shaped crustaceous animal called *cyparis*, and also stems and fronds of ferns. Other lower carboniferous plants are also of frequent occurrence, in particular the *lepidostrobi*, or seed-cones of a tall plant known as the *lepidodendron*, or *scaly-tree*. The *cyprides* lived in fresh or brackish water, and the associated vegetable organisms were all denizens of the land. Above these beds and nearer Linlithgow there occurs a great series of sandstones and shales in frequent alternations. The sandstones are well seen in Kin-

cavil quarry, and the shales, richly charged with *cyprides* and plants, attain a considerable thickness round the old mansion of Ochiltree. At the latter locality, too, and in many other parts of the eastern portion of Linlithgowshire, a seam of coal has been extensively worked. This is rather an unusual occurrence, a workable bed of coal being seldom seen in what is called the Lower Carboniferous group of strata. The present seam, with its equivalents in other districts, is perhaps the most ancient in Great Britain.

All the rocks here enumerated are more or less of a fresh-water origin : that is to say, when the sand and mud of which they are composed, were deposited, Linlithgow was the site of a series of wide shallow lakes, or of a broad shoaling estuary, and once, at least, of a great marshy jungle, crowded with *stigmariæ*, reeds, and ferns. The strata undulate a good deal, but, on the whole, they dip towards the west, and sink below the town of Linlithgow, where they are succeeded by a higher, and of course newer, set of beds of a totally different character. These can be advantageously examined in a line of quarries commencing at Hillhouse, a mile and a half south of the town. They consist of a thick series of limestones, with interstratifications of sandstone and shale, and contain in great numbers the remains of the *encrinite* or stone-lily, at least three species of coral, along with shells of the genera *orthoceras*, *bellerophon*, *productus*, *spirifer*, &c. These are all evidently marine productions, and it is thus interesting to reflect upon the ancient changes of which these are the memorials ; how, from the action of subterranean forces, lake, and marsh, and jungle, were all slowly submerged beneath the sea, and coral reefs began to form where once there bloomed a rank and luxuriant vegetation. Among these limestones thin seams of coal are sometimes met with. At the North-Mine lime quarry a layer of six or eight inches is seen resting on a fire-clay which represents the ancient soil, and surmounted by a sandstone full of the stems of plants, whence it would appear that occasionally the old freshwater conditions returned. These limestones belong to what is termed the mountain or carboniferous limestone group, and form the line of demarcation between the lower and upper carboniferous strata. Above them the upper or coal-bearing part of the system begins, extending north

into the coal-field of Borrowstounness, and southwards into that of Bathgate. The space between these two localities is occupied by a series of hills sometimes over 1000 feet high, consisting for the most part of long parallel beds of greenstone dipping westwards. The coal-bearing strata are very thin among these hills, and the mineral has not been profitably nor extensively worked. The Borrowstounness colliery is one of the oldest in Scotland. There are seven or eight principal seams, one of them sometimes reaching a thickness of twelve feet, and also two seams of black-band ironstone. The Snab pit at Kinneil—one of the deepest in Scotland—was sunk to the enormous depth of nearly 1200 feet. Many of the shales in this coal-field contain well-preserved remains of coal-measure plants, also shells of the genera *posidonomyia*, *lingula*, &c., and teeth of a large fish called *rhizodus*. Above all these fresh or brackish water beds, there occur two seams of marine limestone. The upper one has long been quarried at Bowden Hill, where the excavations have been carried on underneath the greenstone of the hill from side to side. The lower has been worked at Carriber.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature in the geology of Linlithgow is the number and variety of the igneous rocks. They are of three kinds. 1st, Beds of volcanic ash or *tufa* interstratified among the sandstones and shales. A good example is seen in the St Magdalen's quarry, near the east end of the town, where the ash contains numerous fragments of coniferous wood. Other rocks of the same kind may be seen in different parts of the great range of limestone quarries, on the east side of Cocklerue hill, in Preston burn, below Carriden House, &c. 2d, Beds of greenstone sometimes of great thickness and always conforming to the dip of the stratified rocks around them. Occasionally they are beautifully columnar as in the limestone quarries. All the more prominent hills in the neighbourhood belong to this series, so that this district, now so peaceful and luxuriant, must once have been the scene of long continued volcanic action, and where now we see woods and cornfields there once rolled great sheets of molten lava, while the air around was darkened with showers of ashes. 3d, Another form of igneous rock is that known as *trap dykes*, where melted matter has risen from below along

the line of some fissure or dislocation. A well marked example may be seen in the low ridge of Parkly Craigs, about a mile south of the town. This dyke can be traced at intervals as far as the Canal aqueduct at the Avon—a distance of fully four miles.

TABLE OF THE ROCKS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF  
LINLITHGOW: IN DESCENDING SERIES.

		Thickness.	Localities.
Lower group of Upper Carboni- ferous or Coal Measures.	Beds of Sandstone and Shale, with two marine limestones in their upper part and containing in their lower series interstratified seams of ironstone and coal, which form the Bo'ness and Bathgate coal-fields. Great sheets of greenstone and tufa are intercalated—more than . . .	2000 feet	Bo'ness and Bathgate, with the intervening hills.
Middle Carboni- ferous or Mountain Limestone.	Beds of marine Limestone, with associated seams of sandstones, shale, and coal, greenstone, and tufa—average . . . . .	100 feet	Hillhouse, Silvermine, and Bathgate.
Lower Carboniferous.	Sandstone and Shale, often in thick beds, abounding in plants, &c. The Sandstones are quarried for building purposes, and the Shales were formerly much used in making drains—perhaps not less than . . .	1000 feet	Kincavil, Ochiltree, and all the country immediately to the east of Linlithgow.
	COAL—averaging from a few inches to . . . . .	6 feet	Houston, Hillend, Craigton.
	Thick strata of Sandstone and a little Shale—upwards of . . .	300 feet	Binny quarry, Railway cutting at Craigton, shore at Queensferry and Hopetoun.
	Bed of freshwater Limestone . . .	9 feet	Queensferry, Newton, Dechmont, &c.
	Sandstones and Shales . . . .	Thickness unknown, but very great.	District between Queensferry and Edinburgh.

The latest of the geological formations in the neighbourhood of Linlithgow is known as the *Drift*, and consists of a set of

clays, gravels, and sands, scattered irregularly over the surface and plentifully interspersed with large rounded boulders. When this superficial matter is removed the harder rock below is generally found to be smooth and striated—the groovings pointing west and east or north-west and south-east, as in the sandstone quarry at Hillhouse, and on the limestone at the South-Mine quarry. It is believed that these scratched surfaces were produced by the grating of rock and sand frozen into icebergs that were drifting from the north-west when our country stood many hundred feet lower than it does at present.

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## SIR DAVID LINDESAY'S TALE.

(From "MARMION.")

" Of all the palaces so fair,  
    Built for the royal dwelling,  
In Scotland, far beyond compare,  
    Linlithgow is excelling;  
And in its park, in jovial June,  
    How sweet the merry linnet's tune,  
    How blithe the blackbird's lay!  
The wild-buck bells from ferny brake,  
The coot dives merry on the lake ;  
    The saddest heart might pleasure take  
    To see all nature gay.  
But June is, to our Sovereign dear,  
The heaviest month in all the year :  
Too well his cause of grief you know,  
June saw his father's overthrow.  
Woe to the traitors who could bring  
The princely boy against his King !  
Still in his conscience burns the sting.  
In offices as strict as Lent,  
King James's June is ever spent.

" When last this routhful month was come,  
And in Linlithgow's holy dome  
    The King, as wont, was praying ;  
While, for his royal father's soul,  
The chanters sung, the bells did toll,  
    The Bishop mass was saying—  
For now the year brought round again  
The day the luckless king was slain—

In Katharine's aisle the Monarch knelt,  
 With sackcloth-shirt and iron belt,  
     And eyes with sorrow streaming ;  
 Around him, in their stalls of state,  
 The Thistle's Knight-Companions sate,  
     Their banners o'er them beaming.  
 I too was there, and, sooth to tell,  
 Bedeafen'd with the jangling knell,  
 Was watching where the sunbeams fell,  
     Through the stain'd casement gleaming ;  
 But, while I marked what next befell,  
     It seem'd as I were dreaming.  
 Stepp'd from the crowd a ghostly wight,  
 In azure gown, with cincture white ;  
 His forehead bald, his head was bare,  
 Down hung at length his yellow hair.—  
 Now, mock me not, when, good my Lord,—  
 I pledge to you my knightly word,  
 That, when I saw his placid grace,  
 His simple majesty of face,  
 His solemn bearing, and his pace  
     So stately gliding on,—  
 Seem'd to me ne'er did limner paint  
 So just an image of the Saint,  
 Who propp'd the Virgin in her faint,—  
     The loved Apostle John.

“ He stepp'd before the Monarch's chair,  
 And stood with rustic plainness there,  
     And little reverence made ;  
 Nor head, nor body, bow'd nor bent,  
 But on the desk his arm he leant,  
     And words like these he said,  
 In a low voice—but never tone  
 So thrill'd through vein, and nerve, and bone :—  
     ‘ My mother sent me from afar,  
 Sir King, to warn thee not to war,—  
         Woe waits on thine array ;  
 If war thou wilt, of woman fair,  
 Her witching wiles and wanton snare,  
 James Stuart, doubly warned, beware :  
         God keep thee as he may ! ’—  
 The wondering Monarch seem'd to seek  
     For answer and found none ;  
 And when he raised his head to speak,  
         The monitor was gone.  
 The Marshall and myself had cast  
 To stop him as he outward pass'd ;  
 But, lighter than the whirlwind's blast  
     He vanish'd from our eyes,  
 Like sunbeam on the billow cast,  
         That glances but, and dies.”

**" THE MARCHES-DAY."**

"OYEZ! OYEZ! OYEZ! The Burgesses, Craftsmen, and whole Inhabitants of the Royal Burgh of Linlithgow, are hereby Warned and Summoned to attend My Lord Provost, Bailies, and Council, at the ringing of the Bells, on Tuesday the      day of June current, for the purpose of riding the Town's Marches and Liberties, according to the use and custom of this Ancient and Honourable Burgh-Royal,—and that in their best carriage and equipage, apparel and array; and also, to attend all diets of Court held and appointed upon that day by my Lord Provost and Bailies: and that under the penalty of One hundred Pounds Scots each.—*God Save the Queen and my Lord Provost.*"

The above is the form of summons, published by tuck of drum on the Friday preceding the important event, to the great delight of all the children of the place, who never fail to greet it with many hearty cheers. And many of the children of a larger growth listen and are glad, if less vociferous. The two or three hundredth whitewashing has done its best for the old houses, and they look, if not quite as good as new, cheerful in their old age. The ceremony, as already seen, is an old one, and it appears, in its origin, to have been something more than a mere ceremony. Since the dissolution of the Incorporations, it has been gradually dying away, and threatens at no distant period to become extinct,—but a short description of it as it was in its greater days may not be unacceptable. At present the day is usually opened by the arrival of some of the bands of music engaged for the occasion, but, in former days, when the town kept its piper, the first intimation used to be his clear lilt, with drum accompaniment, of "the Marches-day tune"—the Rock and the wee pickle tow. Horses arrive from the country and saddles are carried about, till near eleven o'clock, when the riders assemble at the houses of their deacons, where the deacons stand treat, until it is time for the several bodies to take their places on the sides of the wide street, east from the Cross. Issuing from the Council Chamber, the magistrates and other officials then proceed to make proclamation or "fence the marches" as it is called, first at the foot of the Cross-brae, a little to the west of the Cross-well, and then farther along the street, a little to the east of the shop of our publisher, in the midst of the riders, in the following terms—the Town-Clerk reading and the Officer proclaiming:—

"I Defend and I Forbid in our Sovereign Lady's name, and in name of My Lord Provost and Bailies of the Royal Burgh of Linlithgow, That no person or persons presume nor take upon hand, under whatever colour or pretext, to trouble or molest the Magistrates and Burgesses in their peaceable riding of the Town's Marches, under all highest pains and charges that after may follow."\*

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\* The following waggish variation occurs in *The Marches-Day*: "But in consideration of the many falls occasioned by mad horses, the Magistrates certify, That any accidents arising from the wanton disposition of these animals,

The roll of the Deacons being then called, and each commanded to walk forward and show himself, my Lord Provost, Bailies, and Council, with the Town-Clerk, Fiscal, Schoolmaster, and other Burgh officials, preceded by their officers with halberds, and the flags of the Burgh, head the procession, which, according to the roll, should for the rest consist of the Incorporations of—1. The Hammermen; 2. Tailors; 3. Baxters; 4. Cordiners; 5. Weavers; 6. Wrights; 7. Coopers; 8. Flesherz; and of the Fraternities of—1. Gardeners; 2. Tanners; 3. Whipmen; 4. Skinners; 5. Curriers; 6. Dyers. The whole move off with banners flying, towards Linlithgow-Bridge, and shortly, after due refreshment, they march back through the Burgh, halting only to make proclamation as before at Bonnytoun Entry—in the midst of the old burgh lands. Here there is usually a break up of the procession, and a scramble to the front for the honour of being first at Blackness—about four miles off. *Cockwell*, in his soliloquy, anticipates this part of the performance with evident gusto:—

“ Weell faith this is ae day o’ the year, on which ev’ry body pits on their best; and I’m resolv’d to show’t awa as weell’s I can. Whan I munt my horse, I’ll gi’ him the spur, gallop to the deec’ns, and daz the ane shall gang in the ranks before me; and as we gang east to the Cross, I’ll glee frae this side to that side, kepp the lasses’ een, and smile i’ their faces, gar my horse carry a high head, keep my taes into his side, and caper awa fu’ bonnily :—and then down at Blackness—O I’ll get rare fun! ”

At Blackness the magistrates hold a court “on the Green of Blackness, adjoining the site of St Ninian’s chapel, and a little to the south of the castle.” The court is opened or “fenced” in the following terms:—

“ I Defend and I Forbid in our Sovereign Lady’s name, and in name of My Lord Provost and Bailies of the Royal Burgh of Linlithgow, That no person or persons trouble or molest this Court, nor one speak for another without leave first asked and then given, under all highest pains that after may follow.”

The proprietors of lands or tenements in Blackness holding in feu from the Burgh, are regularly called on to appear at these courts. The following is the list of the “Vassals,” as they are termed:—

The Right Hon. JOHN ALEXANDER, EARL OF HOPETOUN.  
 JAMES C. HART, of Drumcrosshall.  
 The Heirs of WILLIAM ALLAN, Farmer, Blackness.  
 The Heirs of ARCHIBALD RITCHIE, Farmer, Blackness.  
 JAMES JOHN CADELL, of Grange.  
 THOMAS STRUTHERS, Blackness Tile Work.

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shall be deemed involuntary..... And finally, the Magistrates, trusting to the unblemished character of the lieges, just hint at the mean practice of purloining bottles from the public dinners: But if, contrary to imagination, any should be found amissing ; in the foresaid names, I do declare, and hereby intimate, That the greatest pains shall be taken to bring the perpetrators to public disgrace.”

A Bailie for the port is then elected in open court—a singularly preserved remnant of the old open system.\* The Bailie's real duties now are to keep a good bottle in store for the Marches-day! Returning to Linlithgow, the procession is re-formed at the east end of the town, and after riding round the Cross-well, the riders rank up on the sides of the street as before; the magistrates and officials gallop through the midst, and a loud hurrrah terminates the ceremony. The proceedings of the day are usually wound up with a dinner. When each incorporation had its own dinner, and manners were somewhat rougher, talk would be of "former days, similar to this, on which bailies were unhors'd, standards broke, their bearers thrown in the mire; how the blood stream'd alternately from the sides of wayward horses, and the skulls of wayward riders; how magistrates were assaulted, counsellors batter'd, and deacons trampled under foot."

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## THE OLD HOSPITAL.

This institution, which appears to have been either an alms-house or a leper-house, or both, is chiefly interesting on account of the confused notices we have regarding it. The popular idea is, that it was, in the crusading times or before them, a "hospice" for the entertainment of pilgrims bound for the Holy Land; and this idea has been supported by the name of "the Pilgrim's hill," long applied to the part of the road leading over the slope to the east of the supposed site of the hospital. The name of "Pilgrim's hill," however, never appears in any old writing, so that it is not known when it arose. An alms-house seems to have existed at the time of and for a century after the Reformation, until abandoned as useless. The charter of James VI. (1591) confirming the appropriation of the annual-rents of the altarages, bears that these are to be applied to support "a reader" in the church, and the "poor of the hospital." It appears, further, that the hospital at this time, and for some time previous, was situated in the Kirkgate. In an entry in the Town Council minutes, in 1637, the council dispose of an old place in the Low-port, "whilk was of old the townes almons-house now demolischt." The lands of "St Magdalen's Hospital" are said by Chalmers to have been alienated by the then preceptor to Sir James Hamilton of Finnart, in 1526, and it is supposed that this was the establishment under the charge of the Burgh prior to that time. The only notices regarding it previous to 1526, are,—the order of Edward III. appointing a preceptor in 1335,

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\* The Blackness Bailie is usually called "Baron Bailie," in accordance with a popular but incorrect usage which has latterly become common, of so designating Bailies not magistrates of Royal Burghs, or, as in this case, supposed not to be so. Blackness was never, so far as known, erected into a Barony, but was virtually part of the Burgh of Linlithgow. The distance of Blackness from the main part of the Burgh would necessitate the appointment of a resident Bailie, who was chosen annually by the burgesses in the same way as the other magistrates.

in which it is called simply "the Hospital of Linlithgow;" one in 1426, in which James I. appoints a preceptor (according to Spottiswoode) to "St Mary Magdalen's Hospital;" one in 1448 amongst the "obits" or notes of legacies, in one of which twelve pence are left to the almes-house, and twelve pence to the leper-house of the burgh; and a fourth one (1496) in the Royal Treasurer's accounts, being a donation of twelve pence "to the seik folk at the town end of Linlithquo," that is, to the lepers. The assertions that the house at one time was an establishment of the Lazarite friars, and that it was not an almes-house, but an hospitium or hostelry erected by the magistrates in the time of James I., seem both groundless. It may be added that St Magdalen's chapel, at least, stood near St Magdalen's village; and that St Magdalen's Cross, at the ancient market-place (place for holding fairs probably), stood where St Magdalen distillery now stands.

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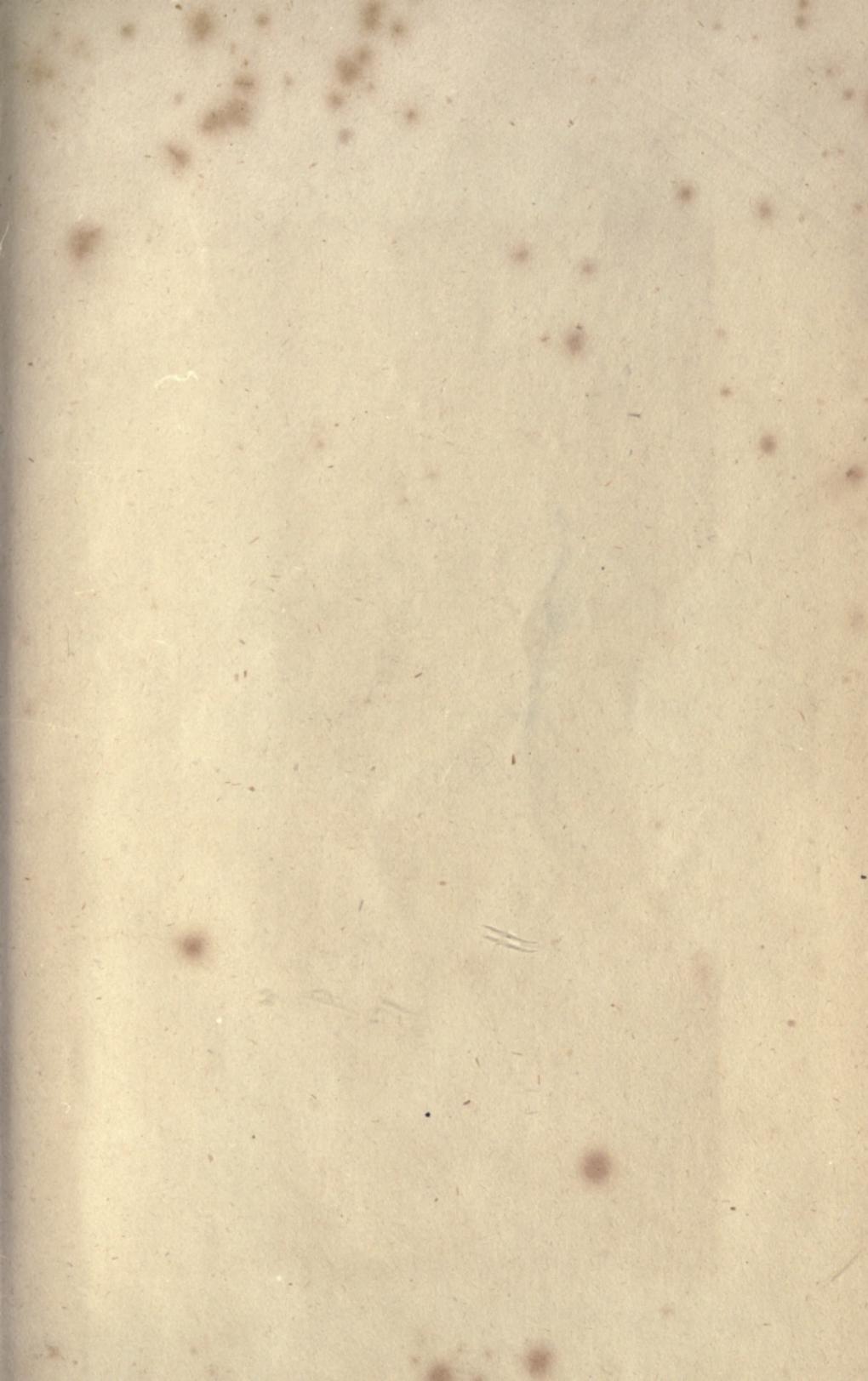
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